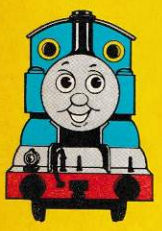
FREE SAND MOULD!

LET'S READ TOGETHER

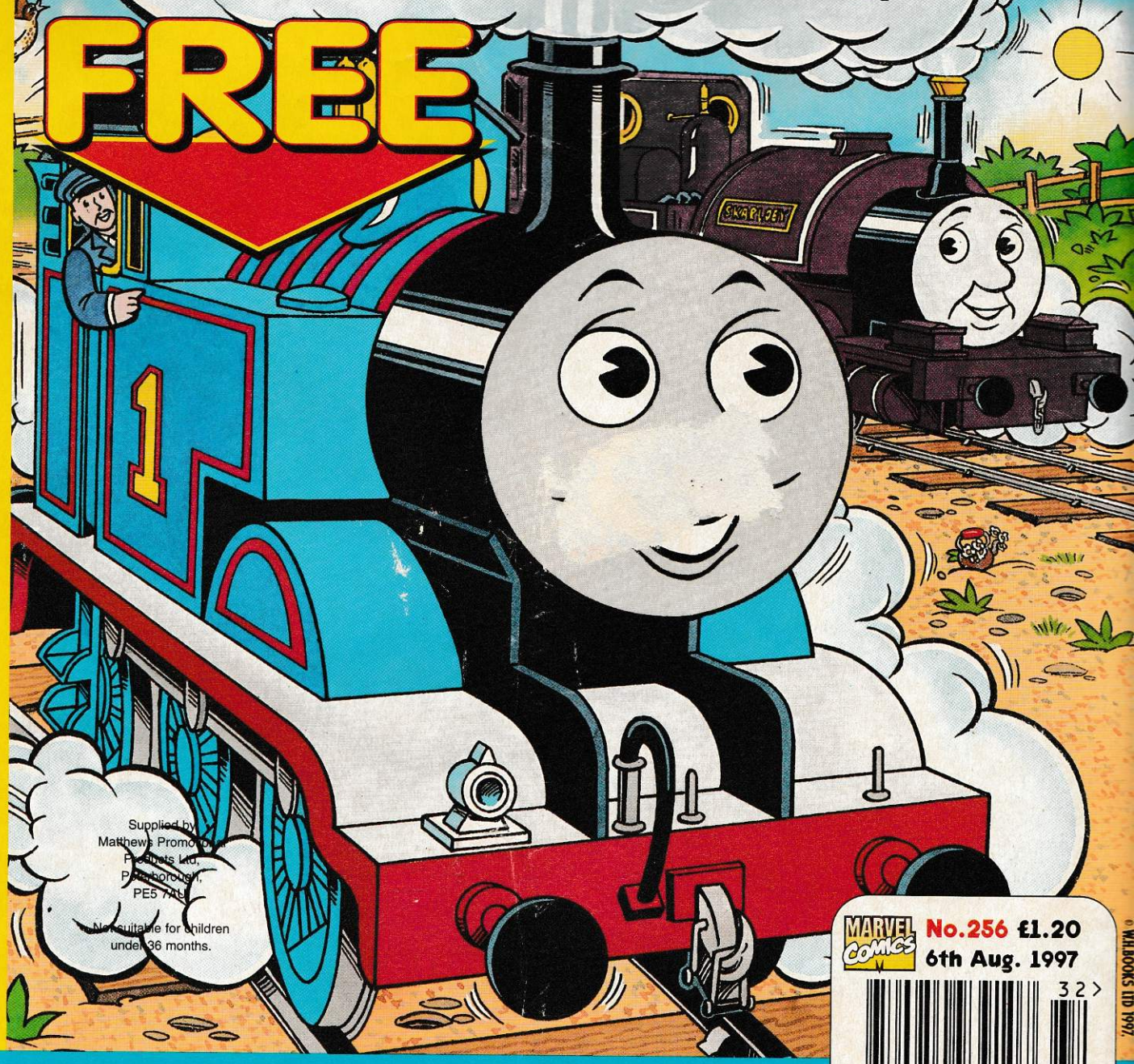
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

FREE



THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



Supplied by Matthews Promotions Products Ltd, Peterborough, PE5 7AU.

Not suitable for children under 36 months.

MARVEL COMICS No.256 £1.20
6th Aug. 1997
32
9 770954 939107

© W.H.BOOKS LTD 1997.

Puzzles · Reading · Colouring

Hello, everybody!

In this issue..

3 Grumpy George!

8 Happy or grumpy?

10 Trevor's Dream!

12 The Posh Coaches!

16 No Joke for James!

18 The Brown Bear!

21 True or false?

22 Competition!

23 Join the dots!

24 The Colourful Engine!

28 Mail Train!

Island of Sodor Railway

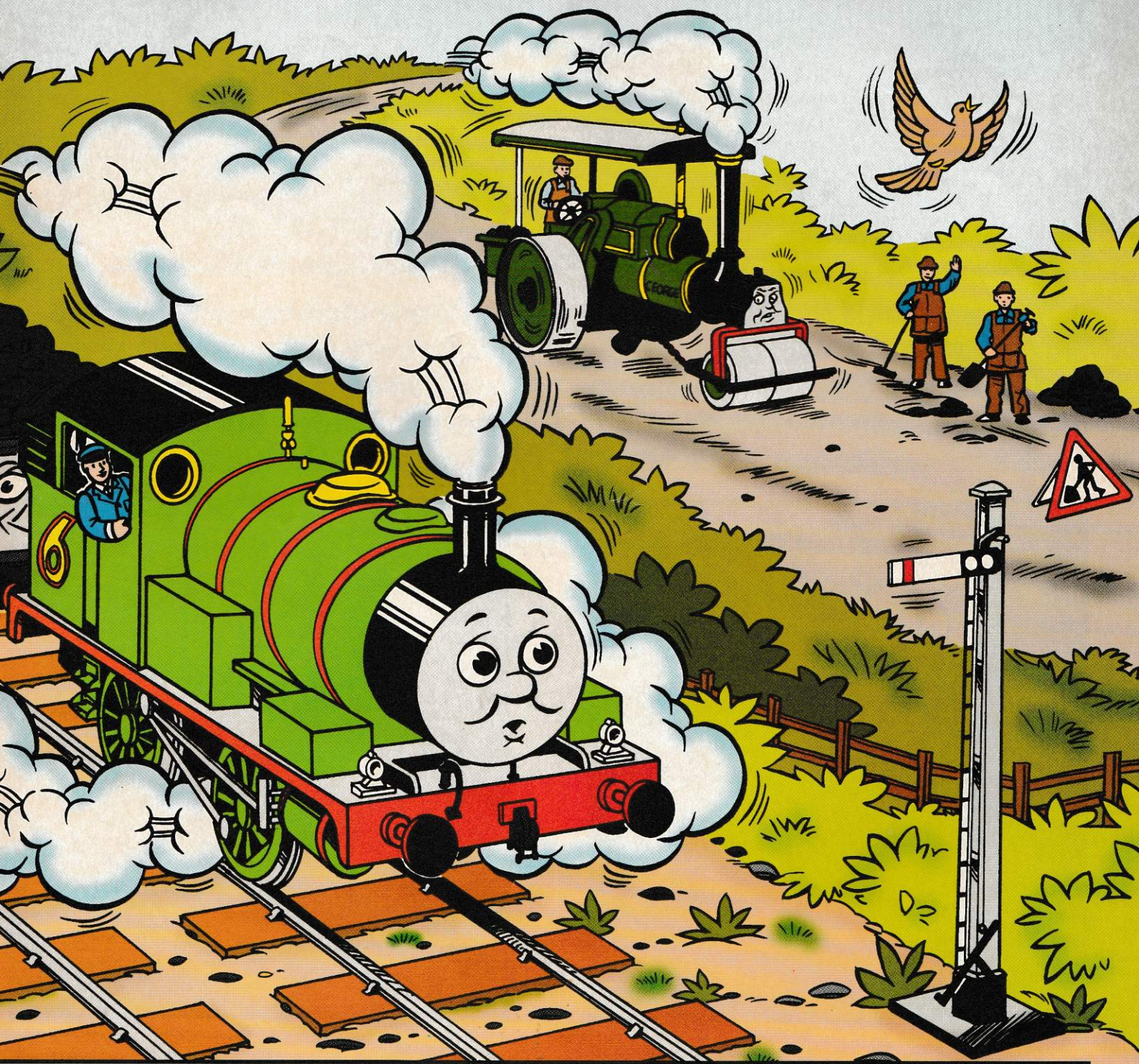
This comic belongs to .....

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS, a division of PANINI UK LTD. Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial team: Karen Brown & Kerry Boettcher; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Designer: Giselle Gimblett ; Production: Mark Irvine & JP Fahy. Office of Publication: Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © W. H. Books. 1997. All television and merchandising rights licensed by W. H. Books. 1997 to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

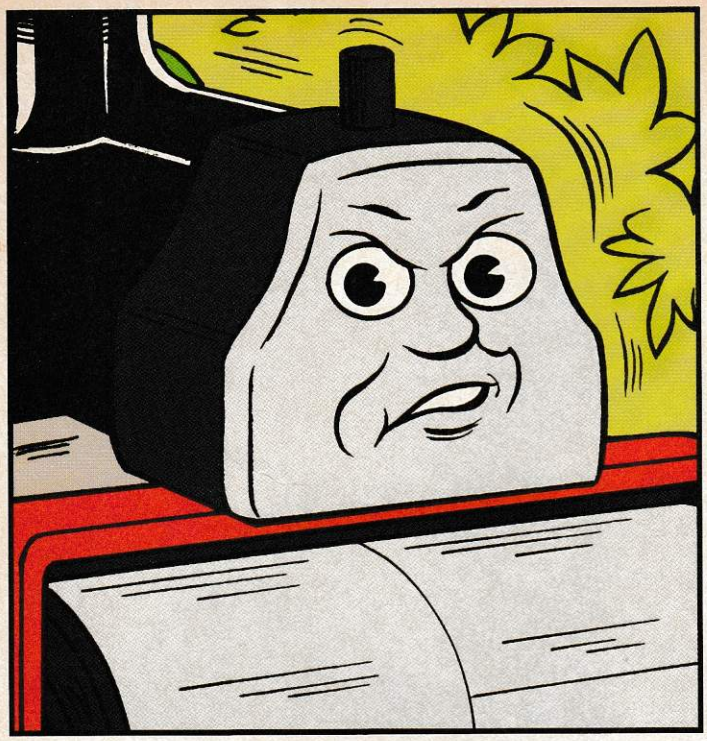
Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

Grumpy George!



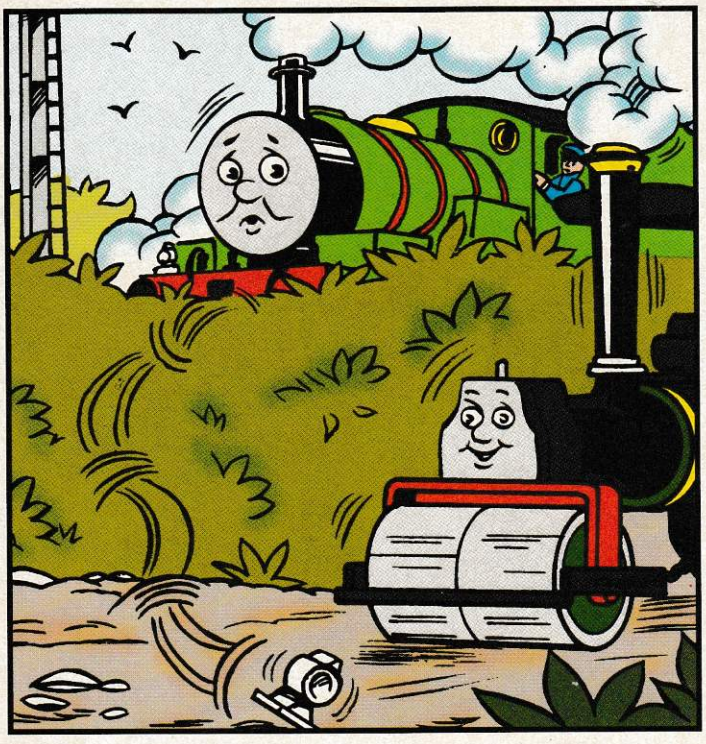
1. George was a grumpy steamroller. He didn't like railways one little bit. One day, George was working on a new road by Thomas' branch line. Percy came puffing towards him.

2. Percy had to stop and wait for a signal to change. So George wasted no time in complaining. "If I had my way, I'd tear up all your tracks and lay roads, instead!" he told Percy.

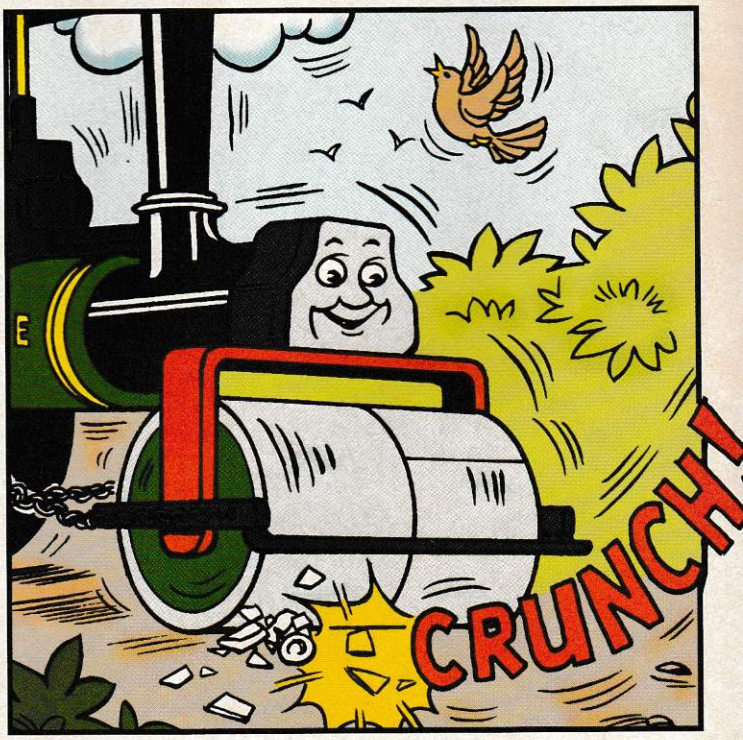


3. "Cheek!" fumed Percy. "Engines are Really Useful. We can outrun a slow old steamroller like you, any day!" "But helping to build roads is much more useful," boasted George.

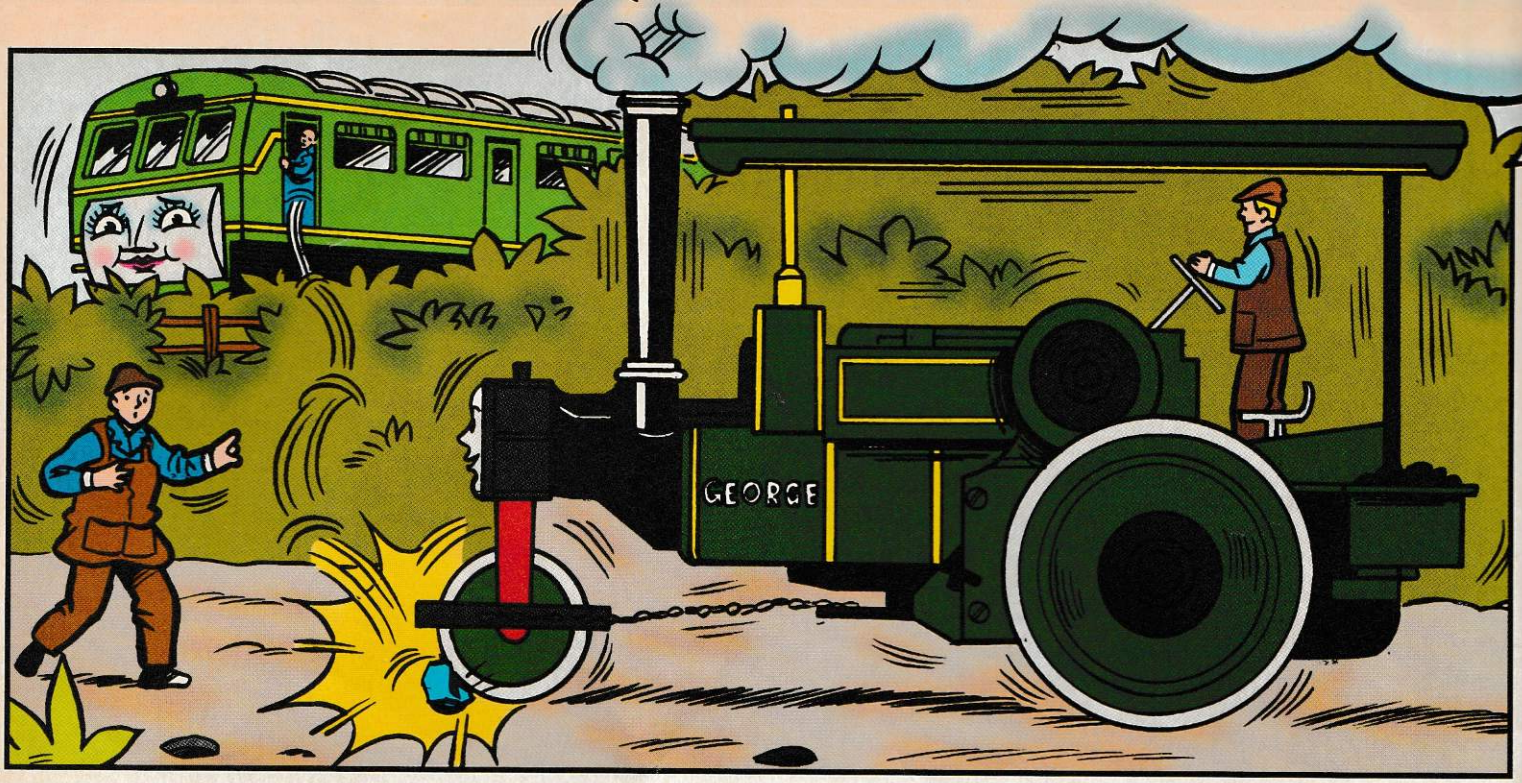
4. "That's what I do and very well, too," he added. "I'd like to know how!" said Percy. Just at that moment, Percy's brakes slipped. He rolled forward and braked hard.



5. Percy was carrying two lamps, and with the jolt, one fell off. It toppled down the railway bank into the road, in front of George. "Watch! I'll show you," he said, mischieviously.

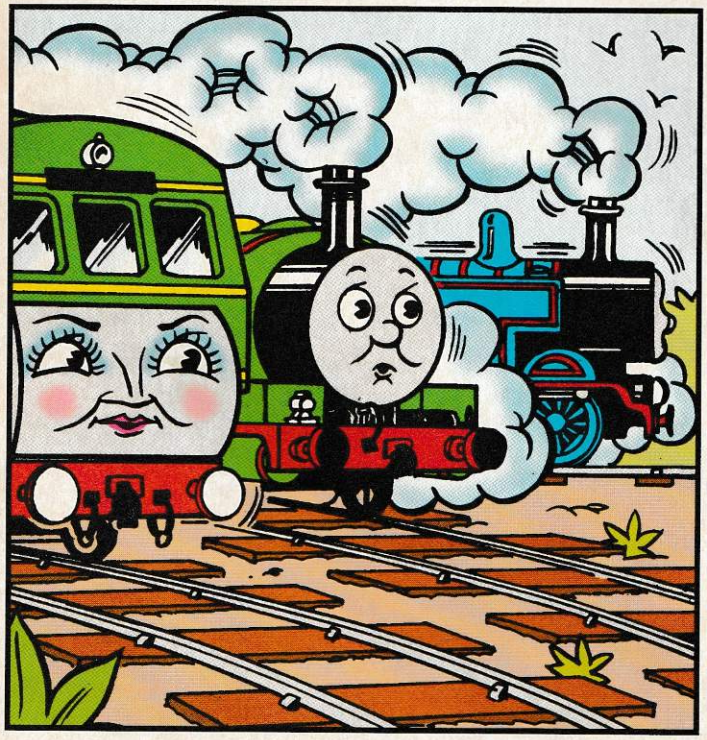


6. The naughty steamroller rumbled towards the lamp. He rolled over it on purpose. CRUNCH! The lamp was squashed. "Now do you see?" called George. "I flatten things!"



7. Percy was furious. But the signal changed and he puffed on his way, angrily hissing steam. Next day, Daisy was working on Thomas' line. She had to stop near George.

8. It was very windy and Daisy's driver suddenly saw his cap blow away. By bad luck, it dropped into the new road. George flattened the cap too, and laughed unkindly.



9. Thomas heard all about the spiteful steamroller. "He'll squash anything in his path!" Percy and Daisy told him. That afternoon, Thomas had to fetch some fruit .

10. All his trucks were filled to the top with wooden crates of apples, oranges and big, ripe melons. It was Thomas' turn to wait at the signal, where George was working.

11. But Thomas braked so hard that it made his trucks rock and bump about. "Look out! Look out!" they shouted. Too late! Some melons fell off. They rolled down into the road.

12. "I wouldn't flatten those, if I were you, George," called Thomas. "You're not me! You're too clumsy!" sneered the steamroller. He decided to teach Thomas to be more careful.

13. George rolled over all the melons! But they were very soft and juicy inside. What a shock he had as they burst open and splattered all over his face. SPLIT! SPLAT!

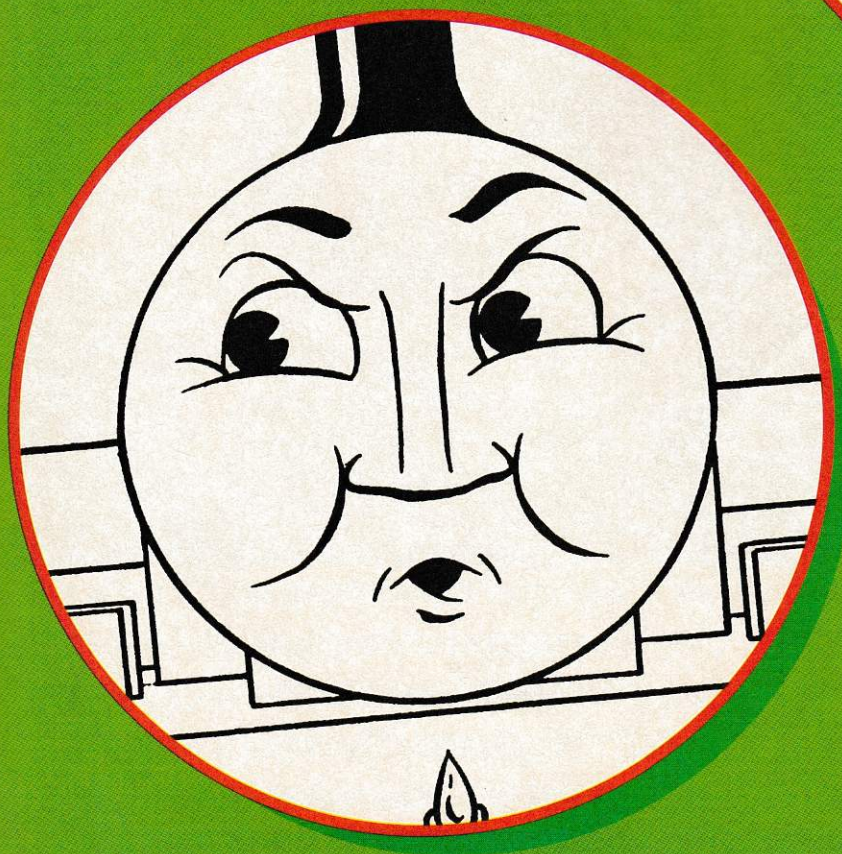
14. George had to stop work to have his face wiped. "Well, I did warn you," smiled Thomas. "It serves you right!" Of course, George liked engines even less, after that!

PEEP! PEEP! THE END!

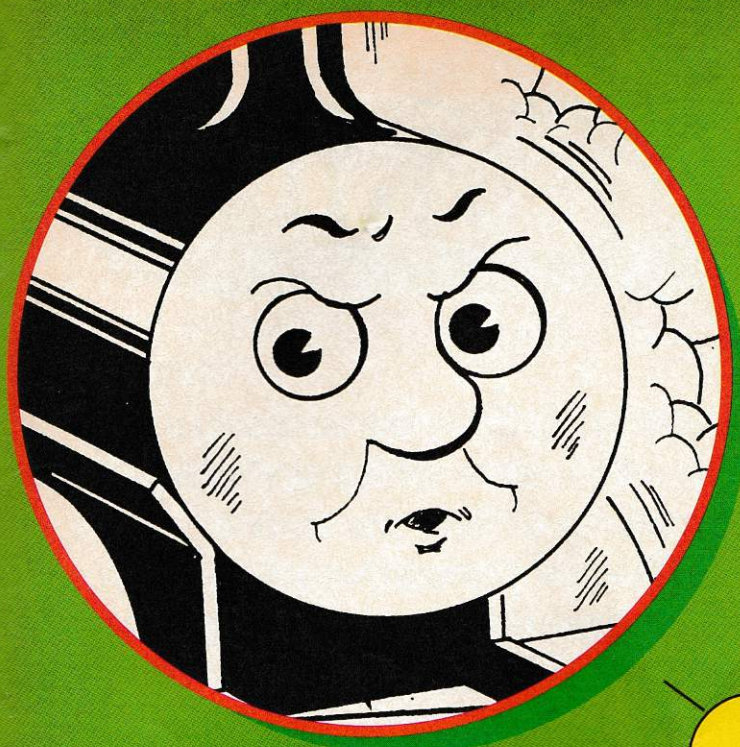
Happy or grumpy?

Can you tell how these engines are feeling by looking at their faces? Write the words 'happy' or 'grumpy' in the spaces below. When you have finished, cheer them all up by colouring them in!

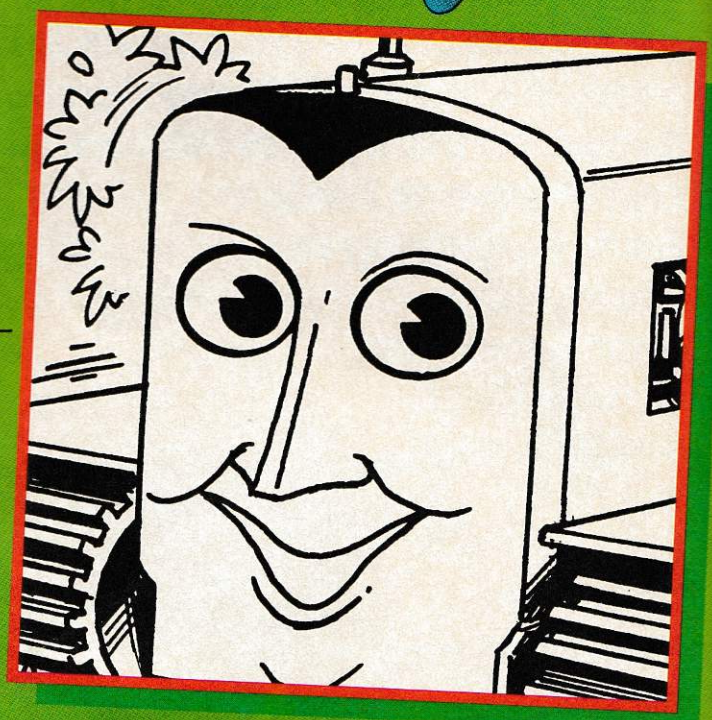
Percy is . . . . . ™



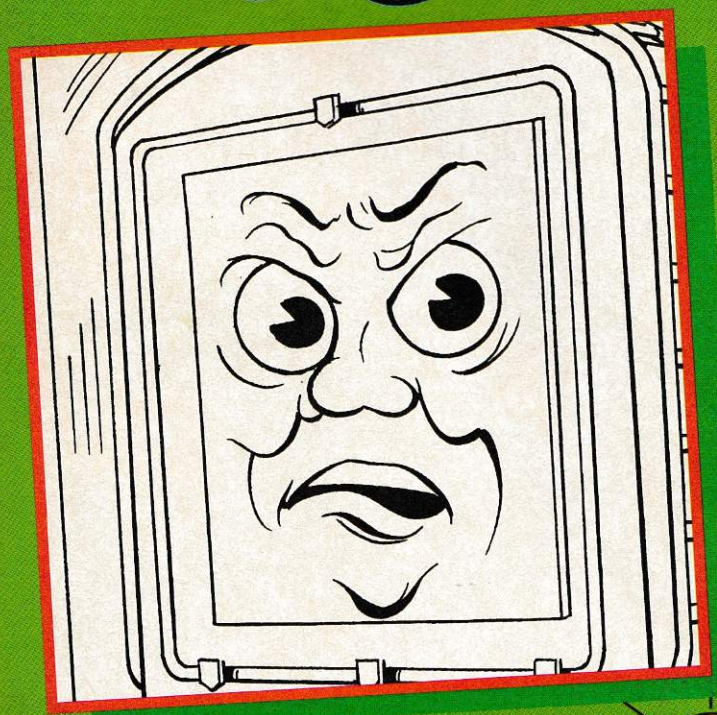
Sir Handel is . . . . . ™



Thomas is . . . . . ™



Terence is . . . . . ™



Diesel is . . . . . ™

James is . . . . . ™

Trevor's Dream!

Trevor the old traction engine was dozing in the sun. He did enjoy the summer! There were apples on the trees in the orchard and there was always something going on at the vicarage. Only poor Trevor was bored! "Oh, I wish I lived in the Main Station Yard," he thought to himself, as he took another forty winks.

"Peep! Peep!" tooted Thomas, as he hurried past. "Sleeping again, Trevor!" he puffed. "I've nothing else to do," sighed Trevor. "I wish I was a Useful engine again, like you!" "A very busy engine, you mean," shouted Thomas, as he disappeared off along the track.

Trevor sighed and went back to sleep. This time he dreamt that he was a Really Useful engine again. He was steaming along happily, pulling carts of passengers along a path and giving children rides. Goodness, he was so busy .... "Trevor! Trevor wake up!" Was that someone calling his name?

Trevor opened his eyes and saw the Fat Controller standing in front of him. "Oh, sorry Sir, I was just resting my eyes!" Trevor began. "I've got a very important job for you today, Trevor," said the Fat Controller. Trevor blinked. Perhaps he was still dreaming?

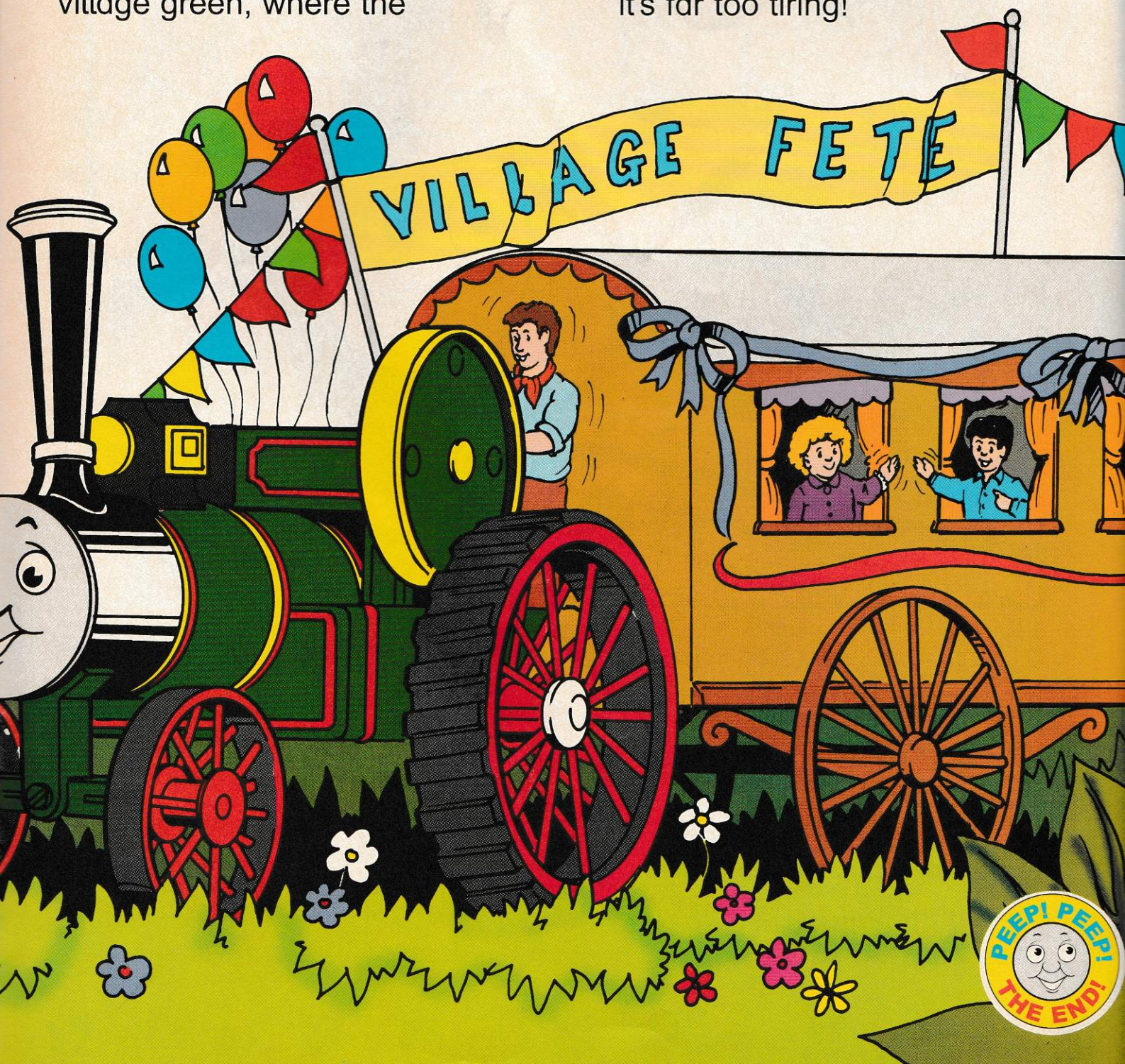
"The fine weather has brought lots more people to the Island for the village fete this afternoon," the Fat Controller explained. "All my trains are very busy. I'm going to lay on an extra ride from the station and it's just the job for you!"

Trevor was delighted. "Thank you,

Sir," he smiled, happily. His dream had come true, after all! "Come along, then, we'd better get you to the yard to be cleaned up first," said the Fat Controller. "You can't carry passengers around looking like that!"

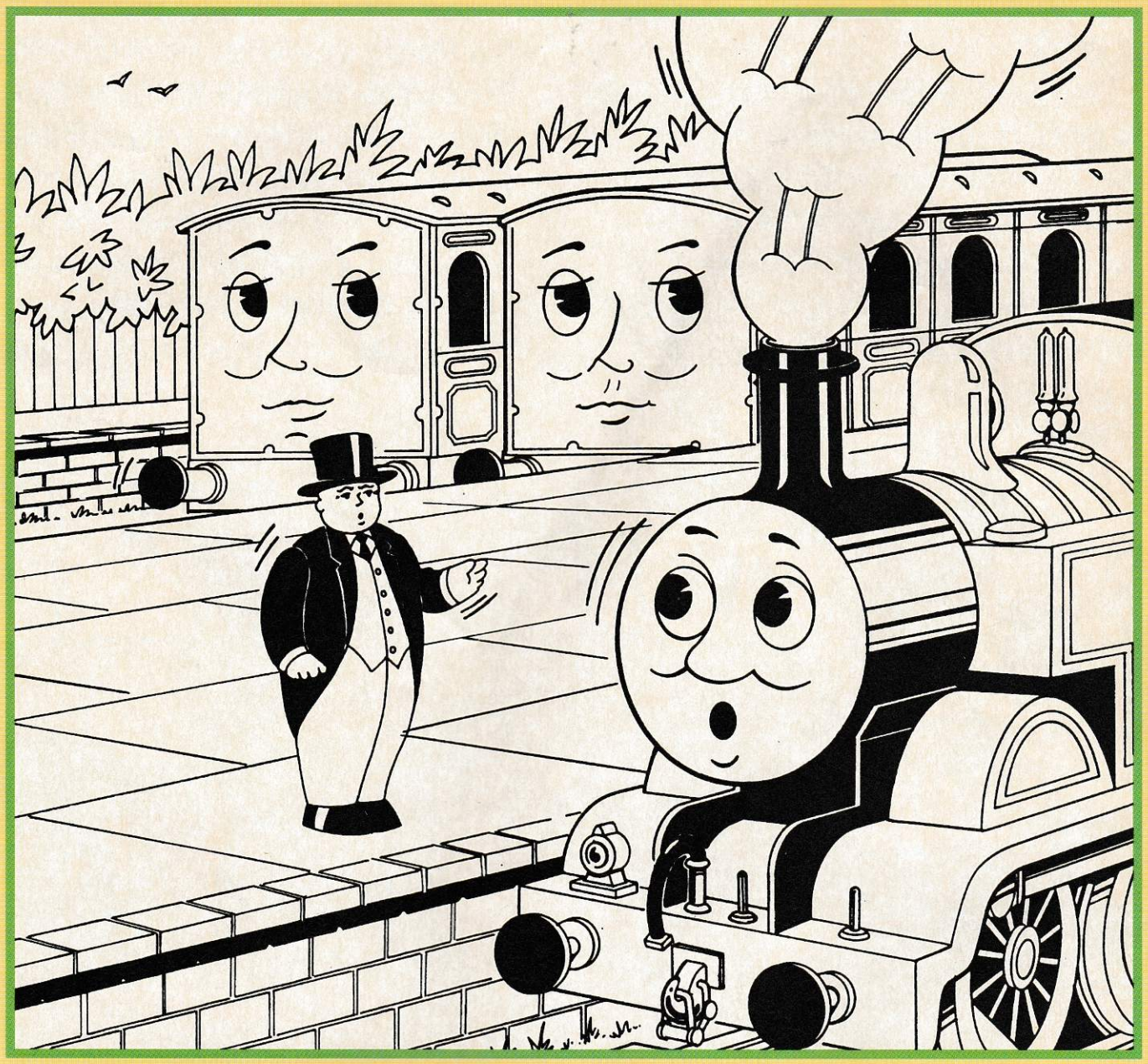
Trevor was given a good scrub and polish until he shone like new. Then he was hitched to some coaches. He waited until all the passengers had climbed aboard before proudly setting off for the village green, where the fete was taking place. Trevor was excited as he watched the passengers climb aboard. He enjoyed giving rides but this made him feel very important, indeed!

All afternoon, he worked hard. By early evening, he was very tired and couldn't wait to have a rest. "Well, you've had a busy day today," smiled Thomas. "I know," yawned Trevor. "And I had a great time. But I'm glad I'm not a very Useful engine every day, it's far too tiring!"



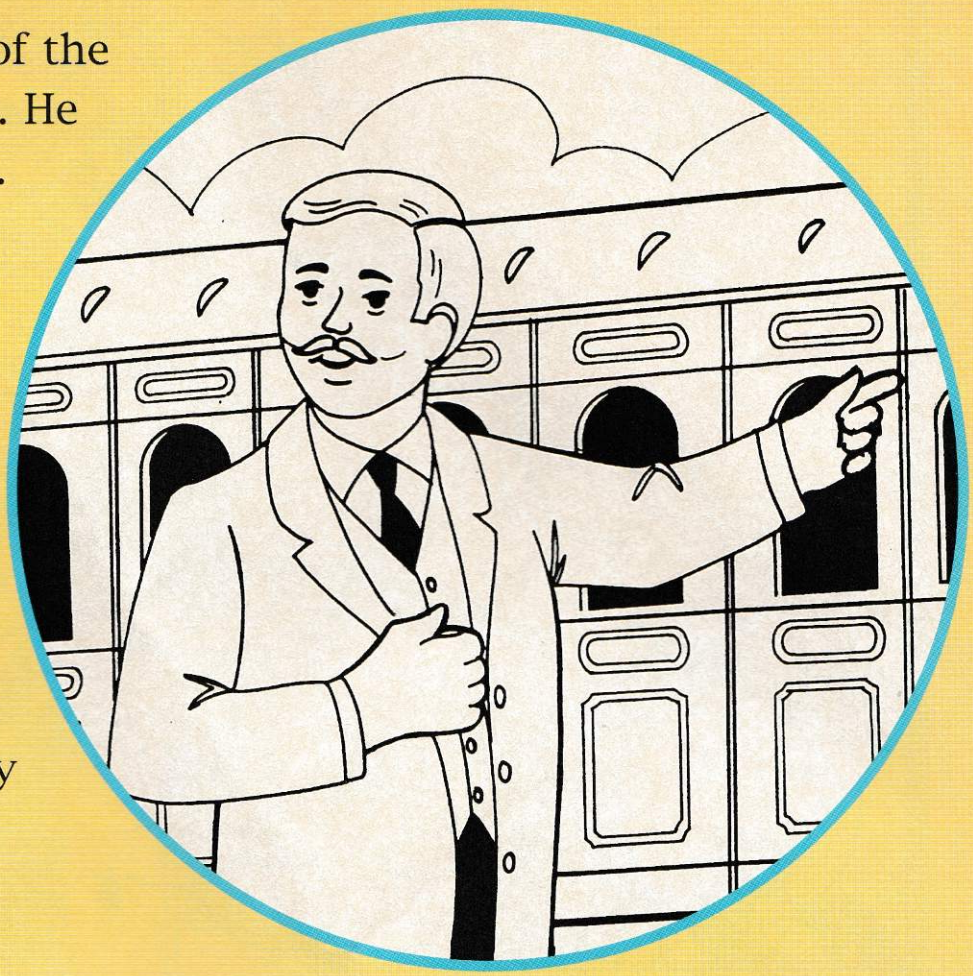
A read & colour story

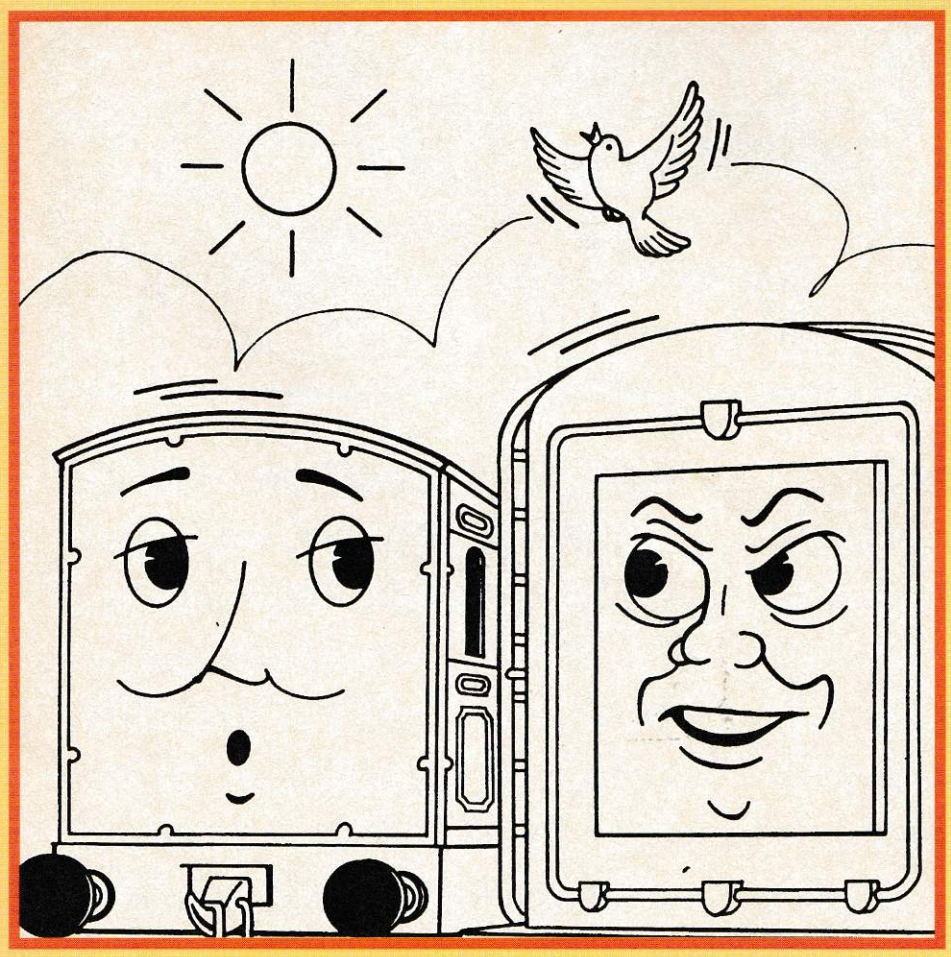
The Posh Coaches!



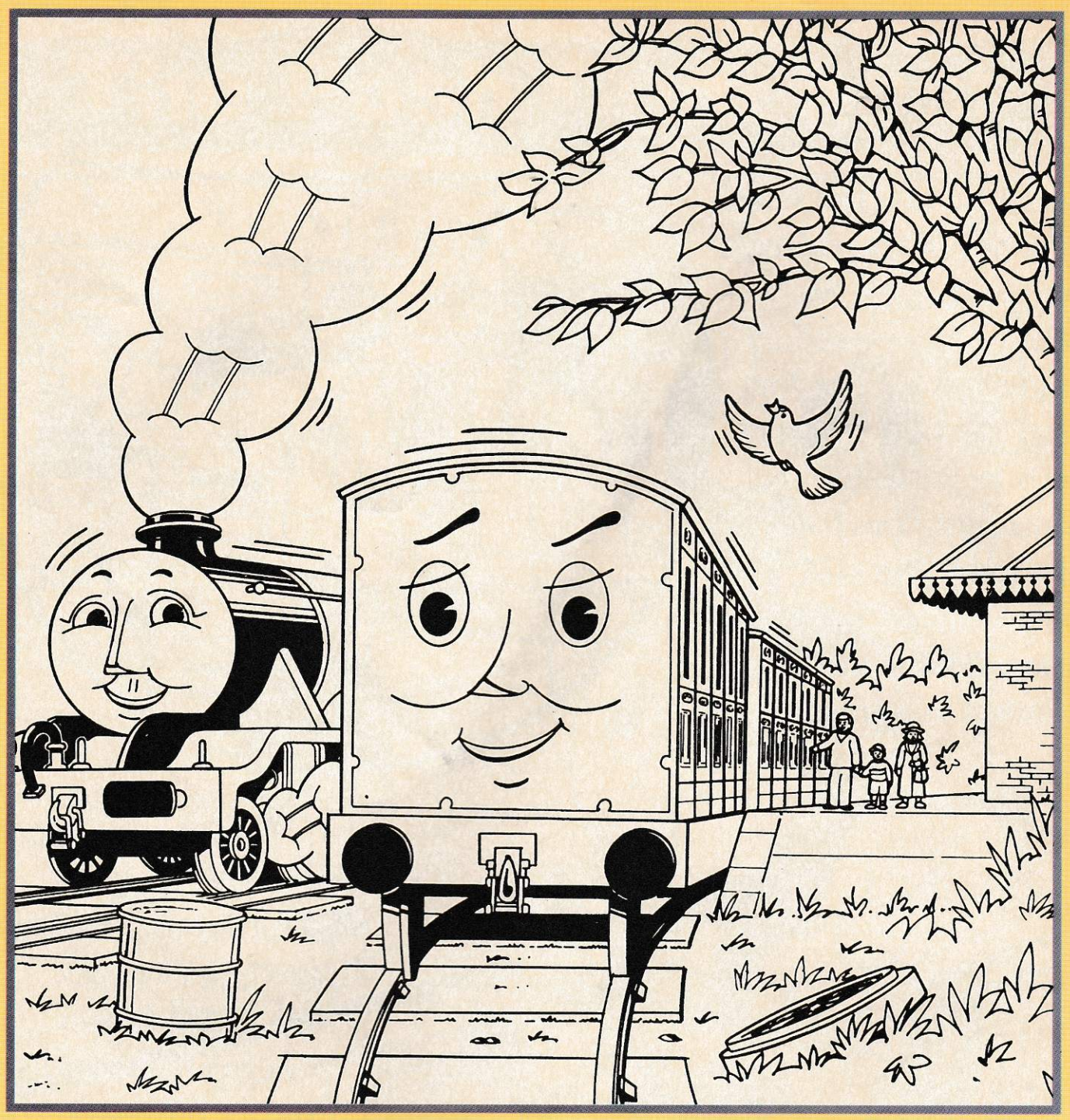
1 Thomas watched with interest as the poshest coaches he had ever seen arrived at the Main Station. "We are First Class coaches from the mainland and we are much too important to talk to you!" they boasted snootily. The Posh Coaches were hoity toity with Annie and Clarabel, and wouldn't even look at Diesel. The Fat Controller was not impressed. The new arrivals were here to help out with the busy express line, and were not joining the team spirit.

2 One day, a friend of the Fat Controller's visited. He was an important man. When he saw the Posh Coaches in the sidings, avoiding work, he seemed impressed. "I might have a use for you!" he said. "You're both in perfect condition. You look like new!" he said. The Posh coaches were very pleased with this and nodded in agreement!

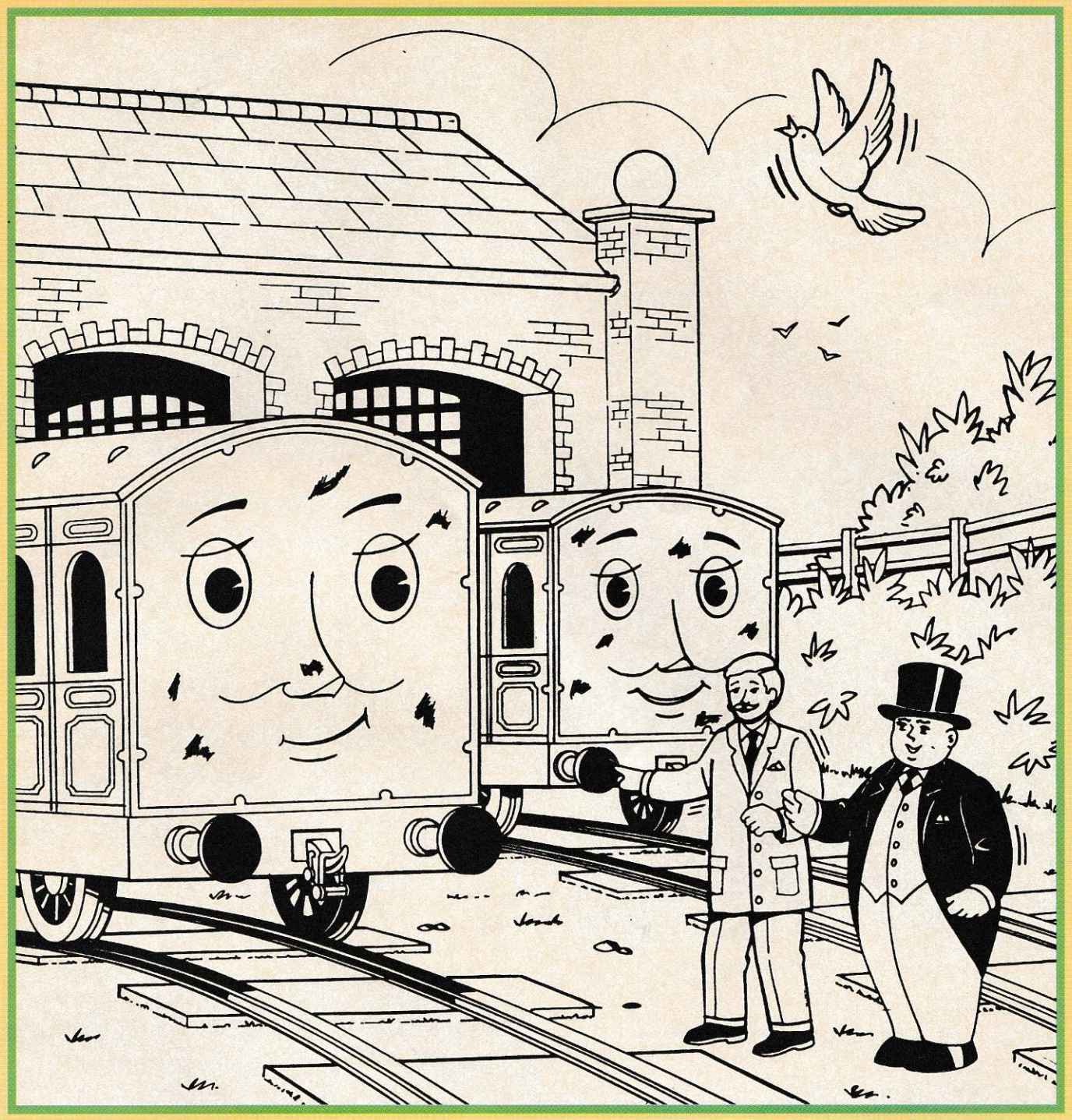




3 "We think that rich man has big plans for us," boasted the Posh Coaches. "Yes," said Diesel. "I've heard he owns a railway museum. You won't find any work there!" he sneered. The coaches looked worried. "But if he buys us, we'll spend the rest of our lives stuck in a gloomy museum!" they wailed.



4 Suddenly, the worried coaches changed their minds about hard work! "We're too important to be taken out of service!" they cried. They offered to do all sorts of jobs, hoping that they would start to look like proper working coaches, not spotless museum pieces! "We'll even work near the coal sheds!" they said. "We don't even mind getting a bit sooty!" The Fat Controller smiled. He was pleased to give them plenty of work on Gordon's busy express train.



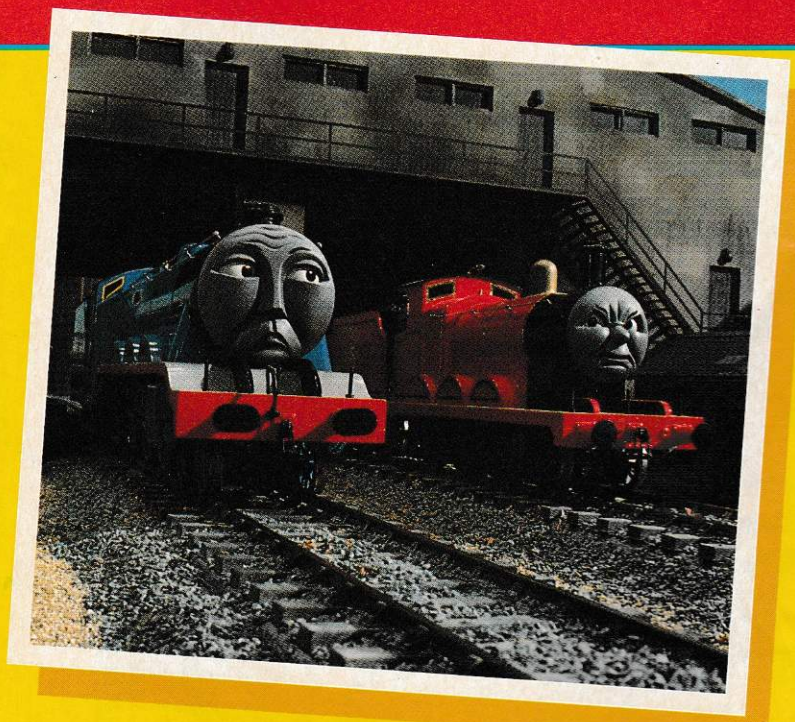
5 The coaches just got back from a dusty trip when they saw the man. He hardly recognised them! "Tut tut," he said. "These dusty coaches aren't what I want for my museum at all!" "Actually, they're not for sale," said the Fat Controller. "They're visitors and have to go back to the Mainland after they've helped me here." The coaches were delighted not to be sold! But after a wash down they had to admit they were still the poshest coaches around!

The end

No Joke for James

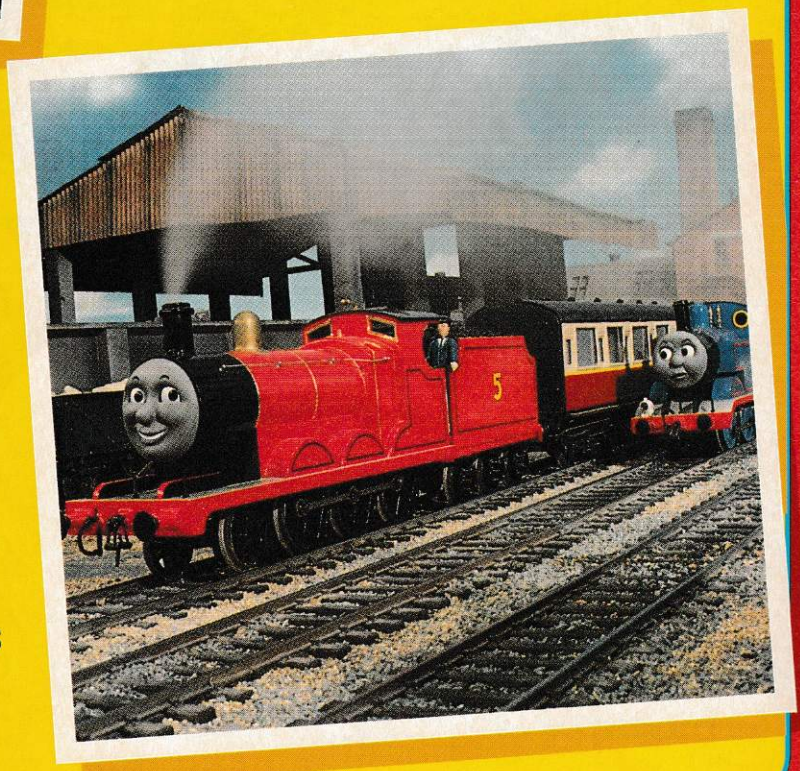
Based on *The Railway Series* by the Rev W Awdry.

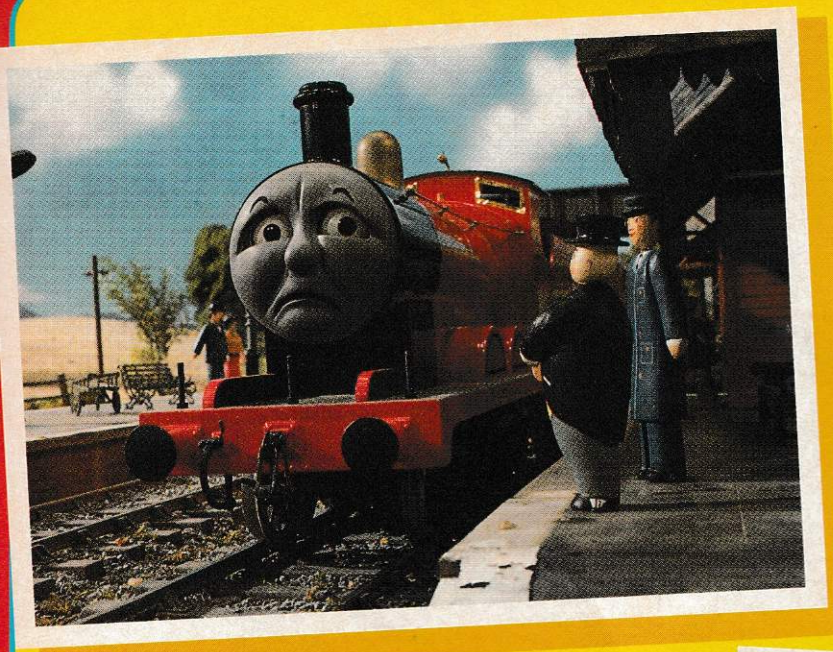
James is a mixed traffic engine. He can pull both trucks and coaches. He is proud of his smart red paint and so is his driver. "Everyone says you brighten up their day, James."



1 James was always boasting that he was the smartest, most useful engine on the line. This annoyed all the other engines. Gordon snorted, "I saw you pulling trucks today. You're only a goods engine! You don't pull coaches as much as I do!"

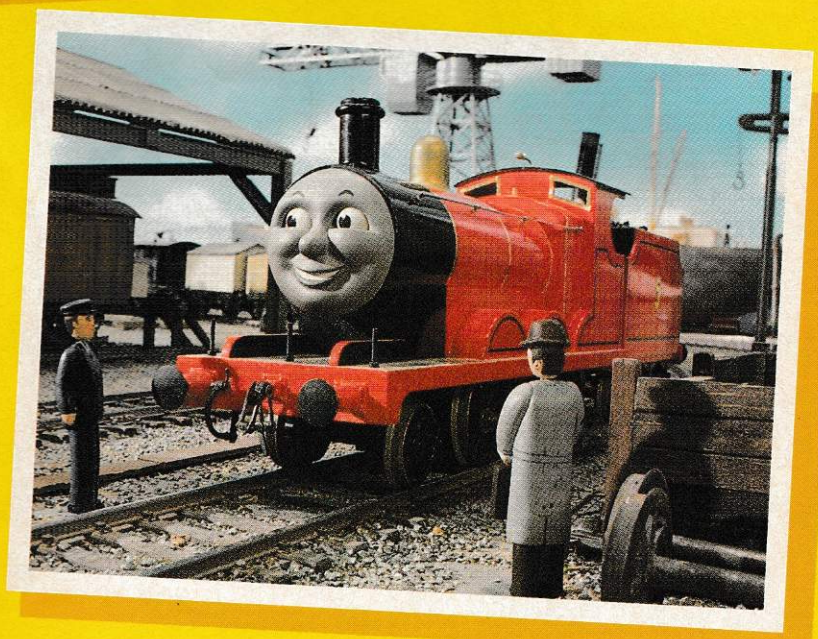
2 James was furious and decided to play a trick on everyone. He saw Thomas shunting the coaches for Gordon's express. James told Thomas that he was to take the coaches today and Gordon was to take the trucks. Later, when they found out, Gordon and his driver were very cross. Meanwhile, James was enjoying himself.





3 Gordon told the Fat Controller, who was very cross. "Some jokes are funny, but not this one. You have caused confusion. You will stay in your shed until you're wanted," he said. The other engines teased James and he felt very sad. He was sorry he had been silly.

4 The next evening, after a hard day working with the trucks, a man asked if he could ride back with James. The man was a railway inspector and he praised James for the splendid ride. Once again James was a *Really Useful* Engine!



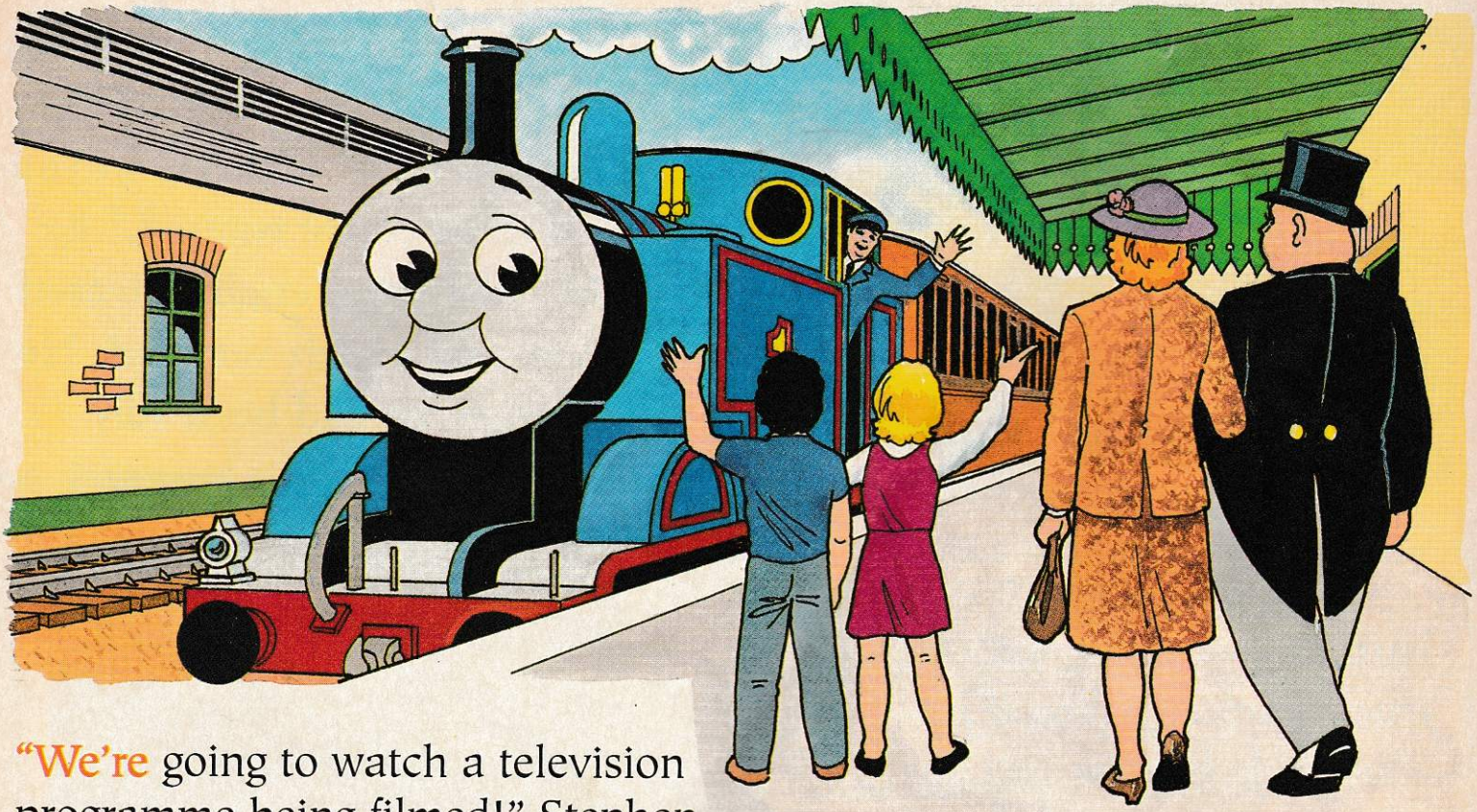
In Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends next time, you can read all about Edward and Trevor!

Win a model of James!

Five lucky winners can win a splendid model of James from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/256 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

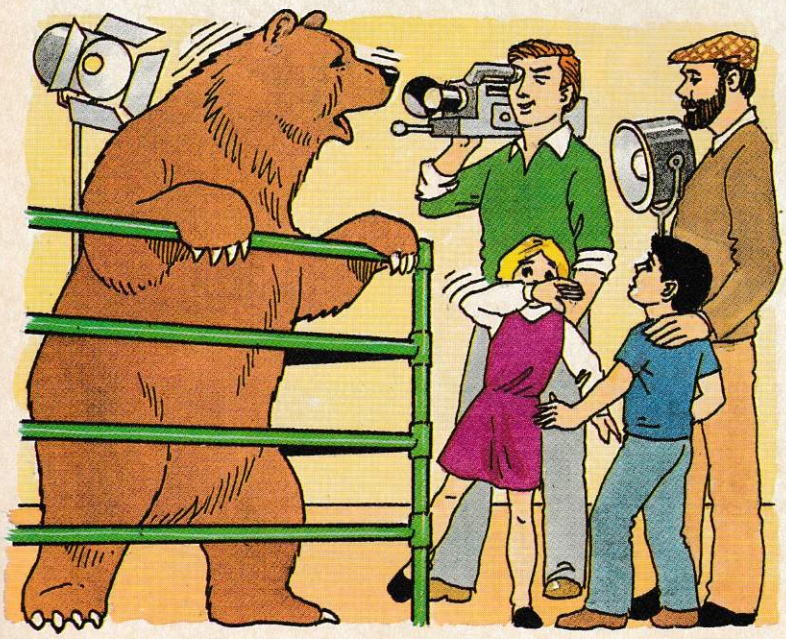
Closing date: August 14th 1997.

The Brown Bear!



"We're going to watch a television programme being filmed!" Stephen and Bridget told Thomas when they arrived at the Main Station with Lady Hatt, one afternoon. "Grandpa says you'll take us in Annie or Clarabel," they added.

Thomas was very excited. "Maybe I'll be included in the filming too!" he thought to himself.



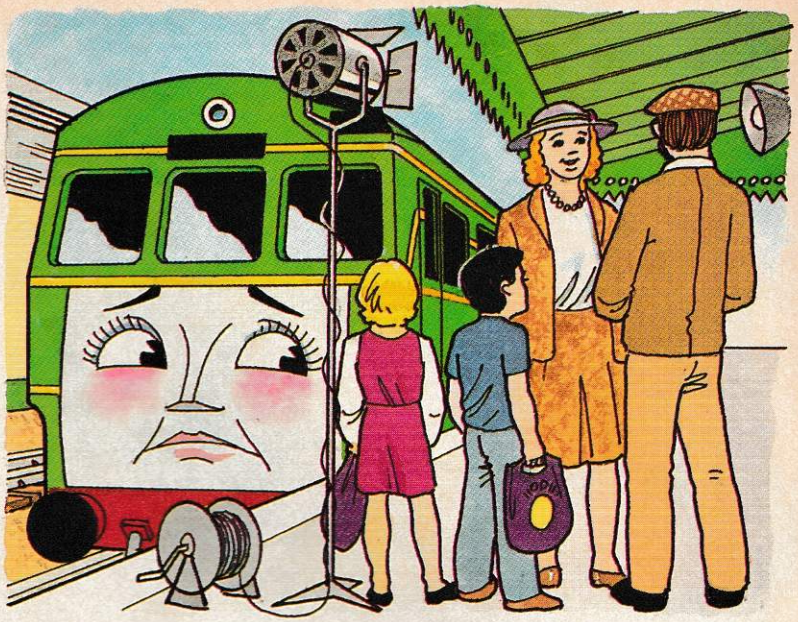
Soon Thomas puffed on his way and arrived at the station where the film crew were setting up their equipment.

A member of the crew told Stephen and Bridget all about the television programme. "It's a drama about a circus," he explained, "and in the scene we're filming now, a big bear escapes and runs away!" He pointed to a large enclosure where a big bear sat, waiting to be filmed. "This bear has been specially trained for acting by a professional animal trainer," he added.

Just then the bear trundled closer on all fours. "I think it wants to meet Thomas!" cried Bridget. Suddenly, the bear stood

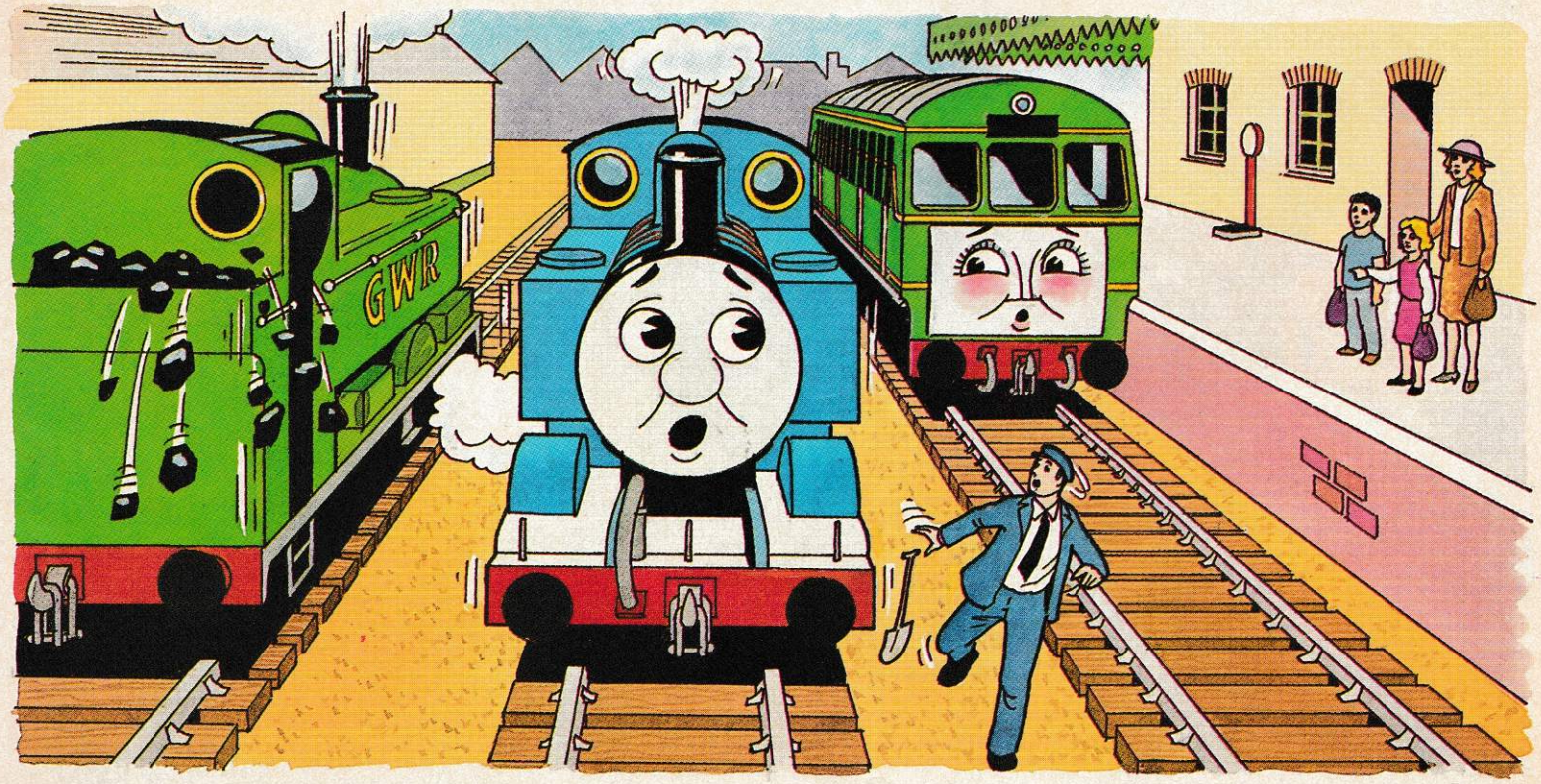
up on its hind legs and growled loudly. The bear looked very fierce and tall. "Smoke and fire!" gasped Thomas. "Don't worry! It's very well trained and it can't escape!" the animal trainer assured them. "The bear wouldn't want to," said Bridget. "It has lots of room to wander about safely in there." "I'm glad to hear it," thought Thomas, nervously.

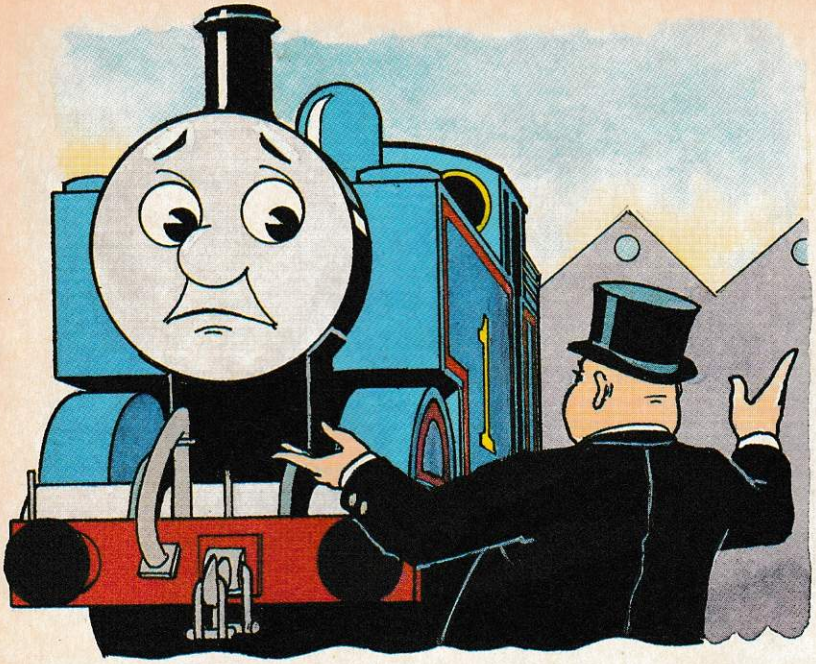
Later, Daisy came to collect Lady Hatt and the children. Stephen and Bridget each had a gift to take home with them that the animal trainer had given them. Daisy looked a little worried as she rolled into the station. "I hope I don't see the great, big, brown bear that growled at Thomas," she told the driver, as they pulled up. Lady Hatt and the children thanked the film crew for their great day.



Soon, Daisy returned to the Main Station with her passengers. Thomas was in the yard. "Hello," Bridget called to his driver. "Would you like to see a furry, brown bear?" "You mean it's here, in the yard? puffed Thomas, shocked.

Before Bridget could say another word, Thomas whistled a warning to some of the other engines. "Peep! Peep! Look out! A



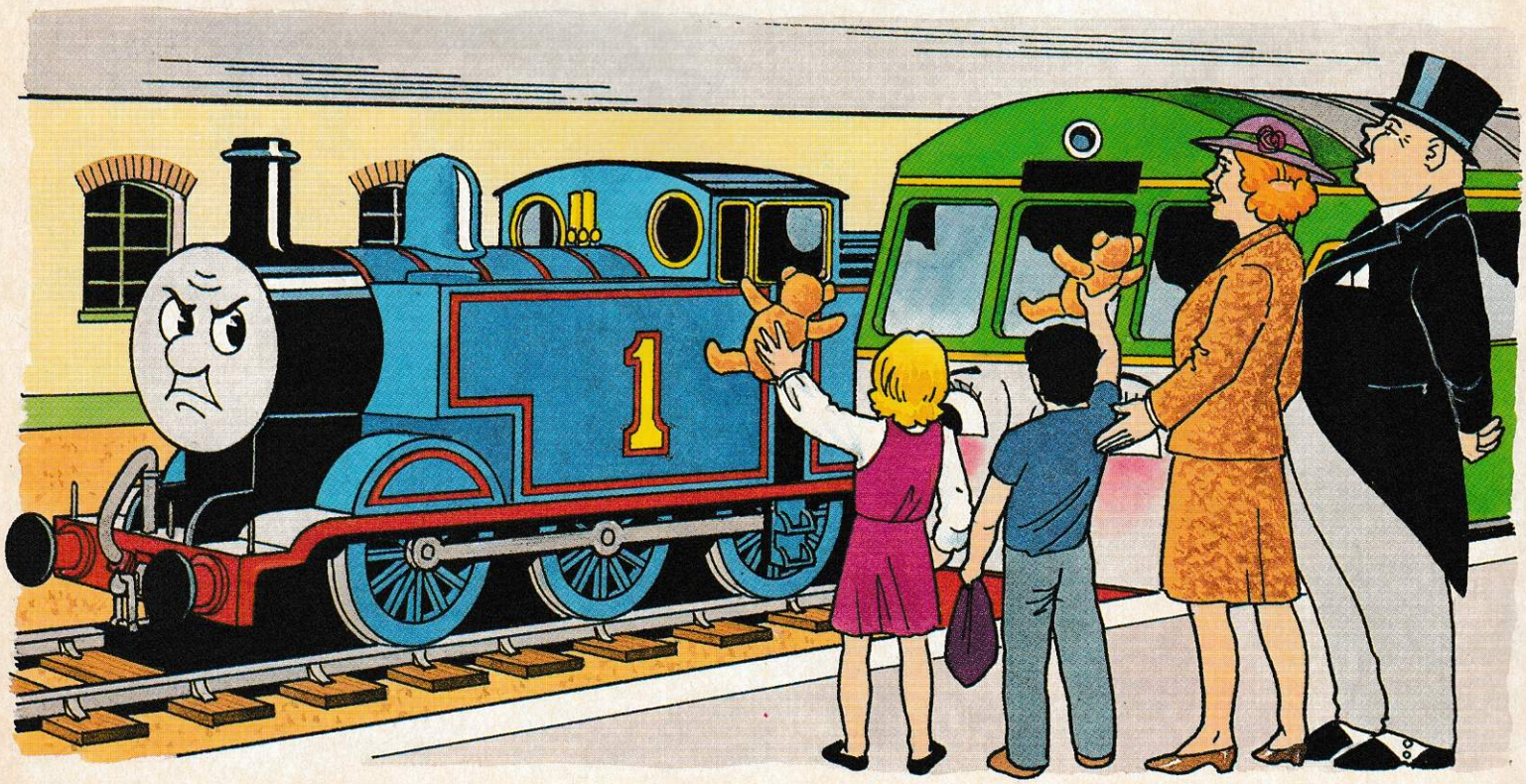


bear has escaped!" he shouted.

James was so surprised he bumped into some buffers. Duck braked hard, spilling coal from his trucks and Percy refused to come out from behind the engine shed where he had quickly hidden. The Fat Controller hurried from his office to see what all the fuss was about. "What's going on?" he asked. "A bear on the loose, Sir! That's what!" replied Thomas. "Bridget says it's here at the station. The bear must have climbed aboard Daisy!" "Don't be silly!" Daisy sniffed. "There *is* a bear here but it's not a *real* one," began Bridget. "I didn't have time to explain." She took out a cute, cuddly toy bear from the little paper bag she was holding. "The animal trainer gave us one each to remember his well-trained bear by," added Stephen, showing Thomas his toy bear as well.

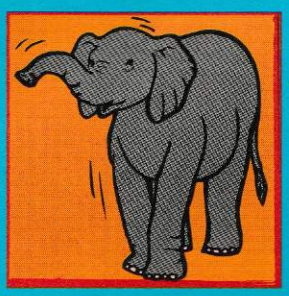
Thomas felt very silly, especially when the other engines laughed. "What's so funny? Anyone can make a mistake!" he growled grumpily. "***Now*** who's acting like an old bear?" teased Bridget.

The end



True or False?

You have just read about Stephen and Bridget and the brown bear. Can you remember what happened? Answer the 5 questions below by putting a tick in the correct box.

	True	False
The children went to watch a television programme being filmed.		
 There was an elephant in the film.		
A big, brown bear growled at Thomas.		
The bear went home with Stephen and Bridget.		
Bridget showed Thomas her toy bear.		

Pedal Power!

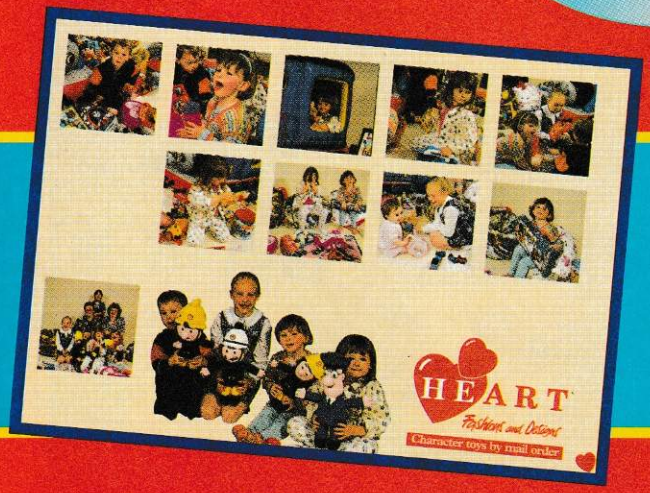
5 of these terrific trikes to be won!

Zoom around on a trike that looks just like Thomas. You can even pretend to be his driver!

To win, just tell us:

How many wheels has a trike got?

Send your answer, along with your name and address, to: Thomas Trike competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W Midlands, WS9 9LR.



All entries must be received by 14th August 1997

Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 150 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 256, or write to them at the competition address above.

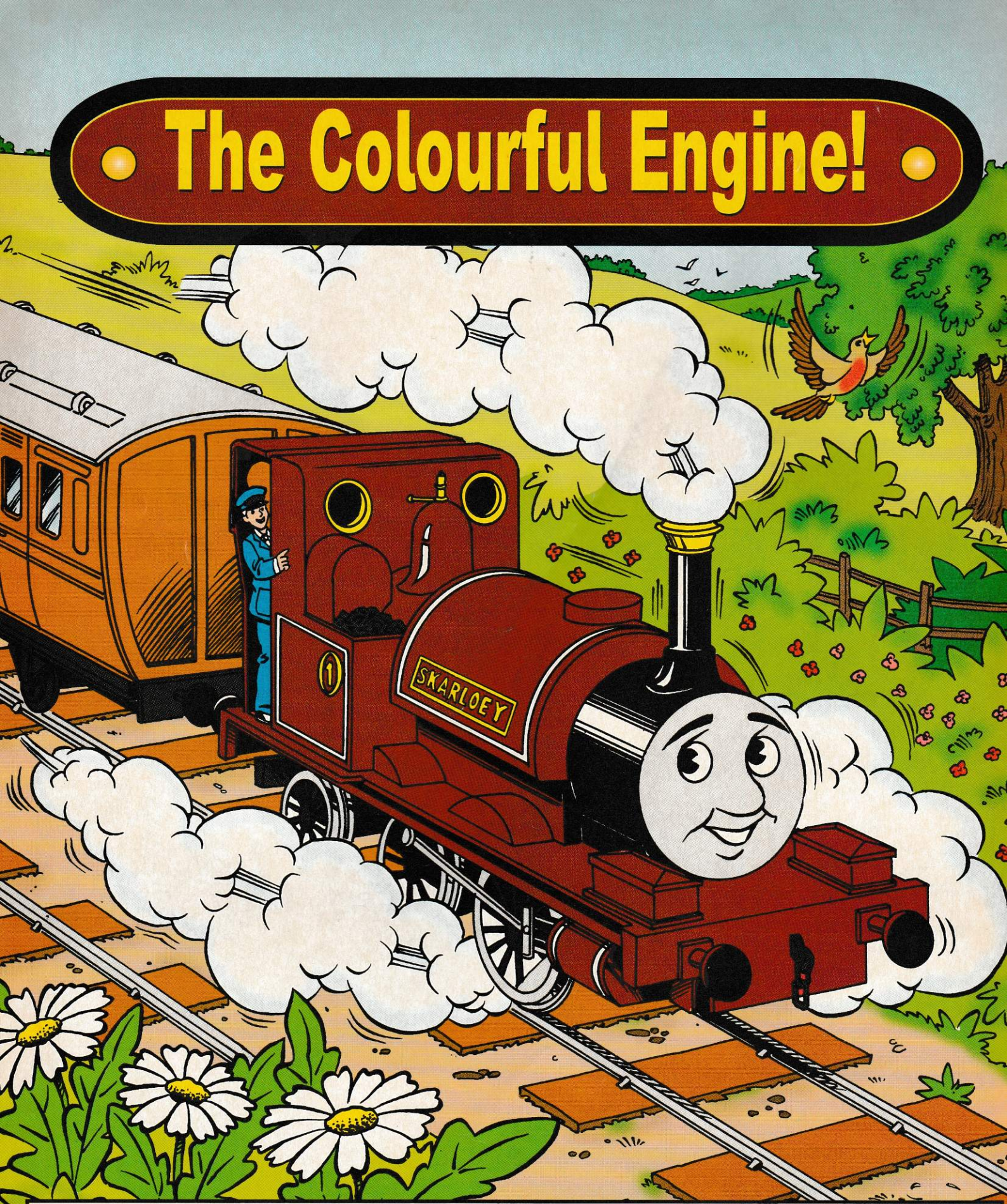
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Dot to dot!

Join the dots in a hurry to find out what's soft, cuddly and furry!

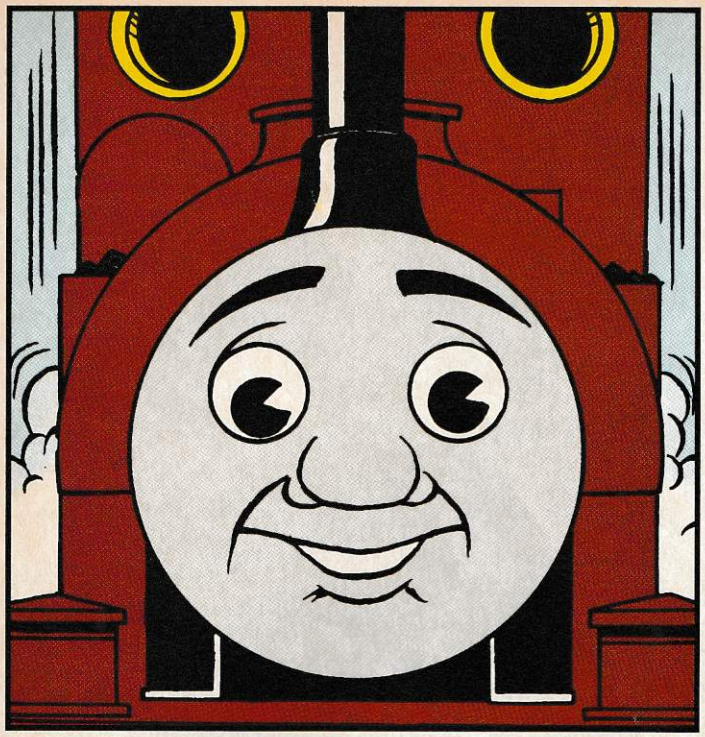
When you have finished colour this page!

The Colourful Engine!



1. Skarloey always worked very hard. He felt proud to pull carriages full of eager sightseers along the little railway that wove around the Island's lakes and mountainsides.

2. Skarloey enjoyed the wonderful sights and sounds just as much as his passengers did. He had worked on the little railway for a long time but never grew tired of the scenery.

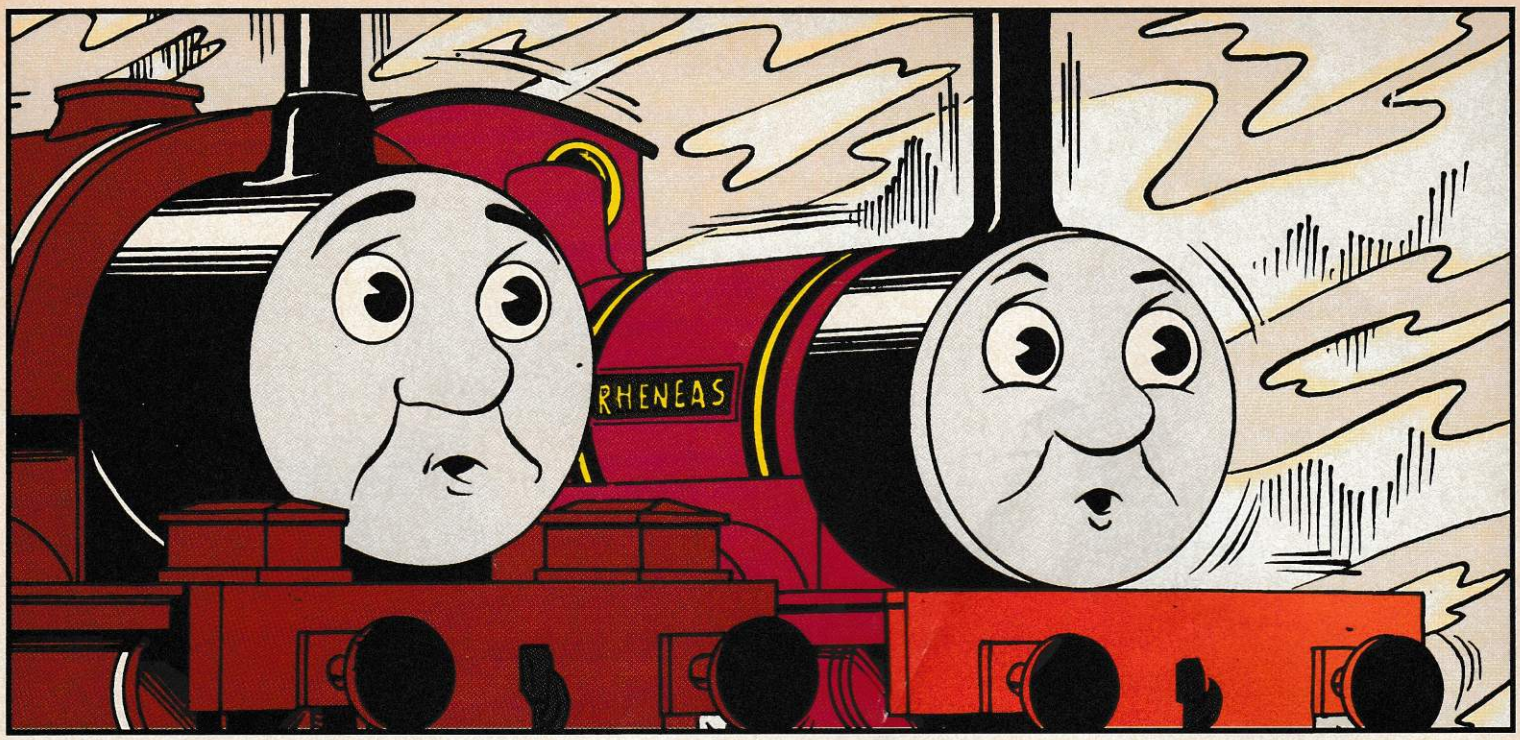


3. "Everywhere is really colourful," Skarloey thought, while he steamed happily along one morning. Then he had an idea. "I know," he smiled to himself, "I'll play a little game."

4. Skarloey thought it would be fun to see how many colours he could spot. There were bright birds and butterflies everywhere. Lots of wild flowers filled steep, grassy slopes.

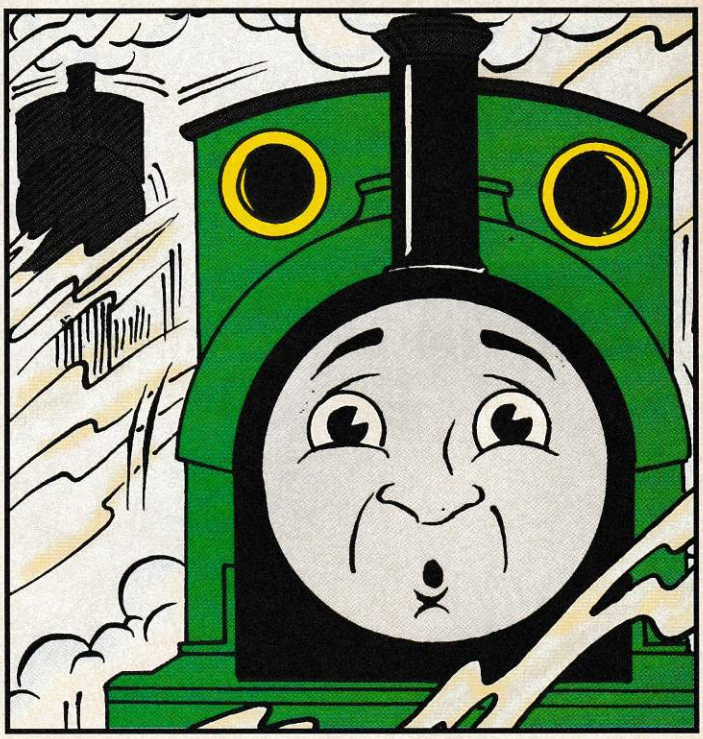
5. "Red, yellow, brown," Skarloey began. "Orange, blue," the little engine went on, as he continued his journey. The leaves on the trees seemed to be every shade of green.

6. Soon, Skarloey met Rheneas, who was bringing some passengers down from the Top Station. "What a lovely view," said Skarloey. "I can't think of anything more colourful!"



7. "Neither can I!" replied Rheneas. But, next morning, they both had a shock when they began work. Now the only thing the engines could see was a swirling, grey mist.

8. "It's not very colourful today," cried Skarloey. "We won't have many passengers." "But we must be ready, whatever the weather, rain, shine or mist!" added Rheneas.

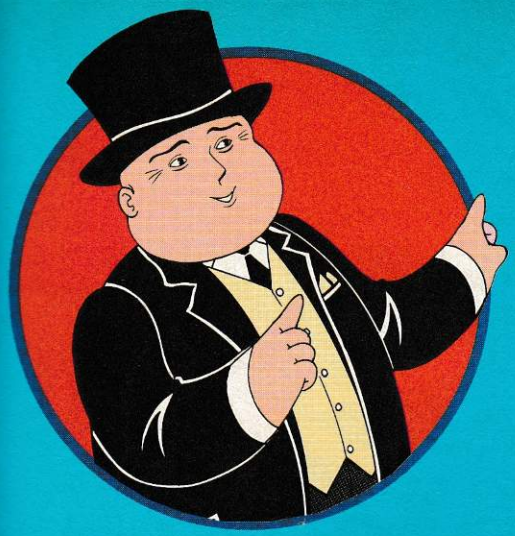


9. Peter Sam had to get underway, as well. "I'm to collect some tins of paint," he called. "Workmen are to paint all the station waiting rooms in bright colours for the tourists."

10. Peter Sam set off through the mist. Later, Skarloey went along the track. When he returned, the mist was as thick as ever. But Peter Sam had just broken down, right ahead.

11. As Skarloey got closer, the mist cleared for a moment. He saw Peter Sam up ahead but it was too late to stop! He bumped against the buffers of Peter Sam's truck. CLANNG! Paint pots toppled out and some of the lids flew off. Poor Skarloey was splashed with paint, from funnel to cab! When the mist had gone, Skarloey pushed Peter Sam back to the Station Yard.

12. Bright sunshine lit up all the colours of the countryside again. But Skarloey was splattered in red, yellow, blue, green and lots more paint. Rheneas could hardly believe his eyes. "You're the most colourful sight I've ever seen now," he gasped. "Well, I suppose you did say that you liked those colours!" he chuckled. "Yes but not on me!" Skarloey sulked!



The m

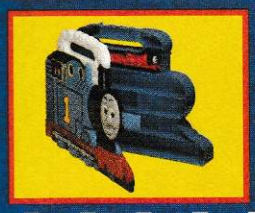
Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Why does Thomas pull Annie and Clarabel?

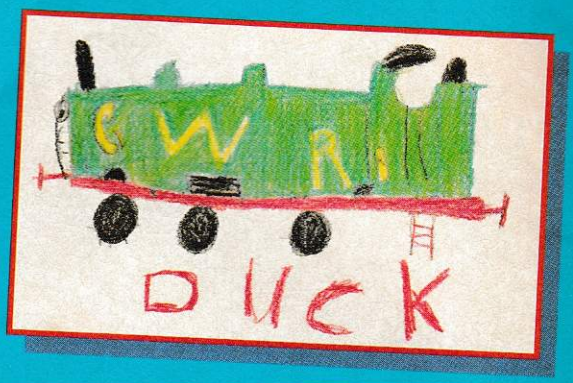
From William, aged 3.

Annie and Clarabel are Thomas' faithful coaches. They carry passengers but can't move on their own. They were given to Thomas as a reward for proving himself to be a Really Useful Engine.



The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid Thomas carry case!

Thanks to 5 year old Ian Ben for sending us this grand picture of Duck!



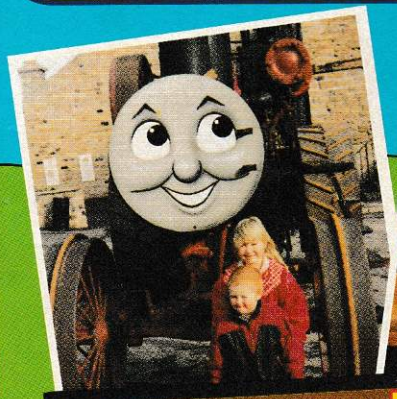
Prize Poem!

4 year old Craig Curran thought up this brilliant poem!

Thomas, Edward and
Gordon are blue.
Henry and Percy are green.
James is red, or so it's said.
All are lovely to be seen!

Happy Birthday

TO: Adam Cottington, aged 6,
Robert Hales, aged 4,
Samantha Cooper, aged 2,
Robert Avery, aged 3,
Joe Williams, aged 3 &
Katherine Sanders,
aged 5.

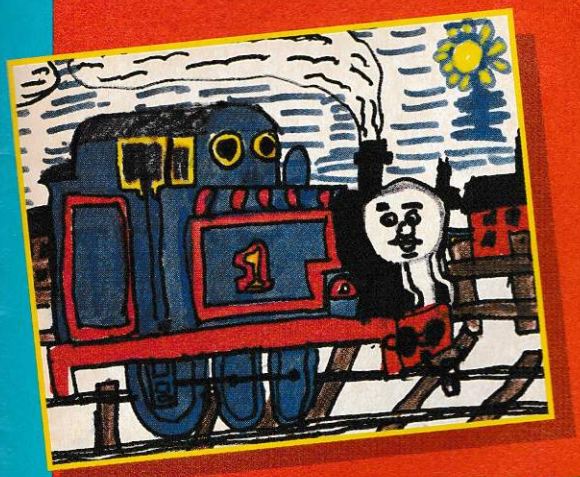


Aron Siddall, aged 4!

Luke Price, aged 4!

ail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a set of special Thomas Glitter Stickers.



Here's a picture of Thomas on a summer day by Joe Dawson, aged 7.

6 year old Katherine Bace has sent in this drawing of Thomas, Harold & the Fat Controller!

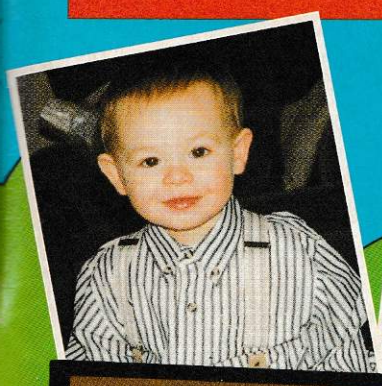
Percy's Jokes!

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

What is the Fat Controller's favourite dessert?
Steamed Pudding!
Benjamin Tonks, aged 5½!

What do you call bananas for the feet?
Slippers!
Tracey Hock!

Where does the baby monkey sleep?
In the apricot!
Jean-Luc Woods, aged 6!



Bradley Mee!

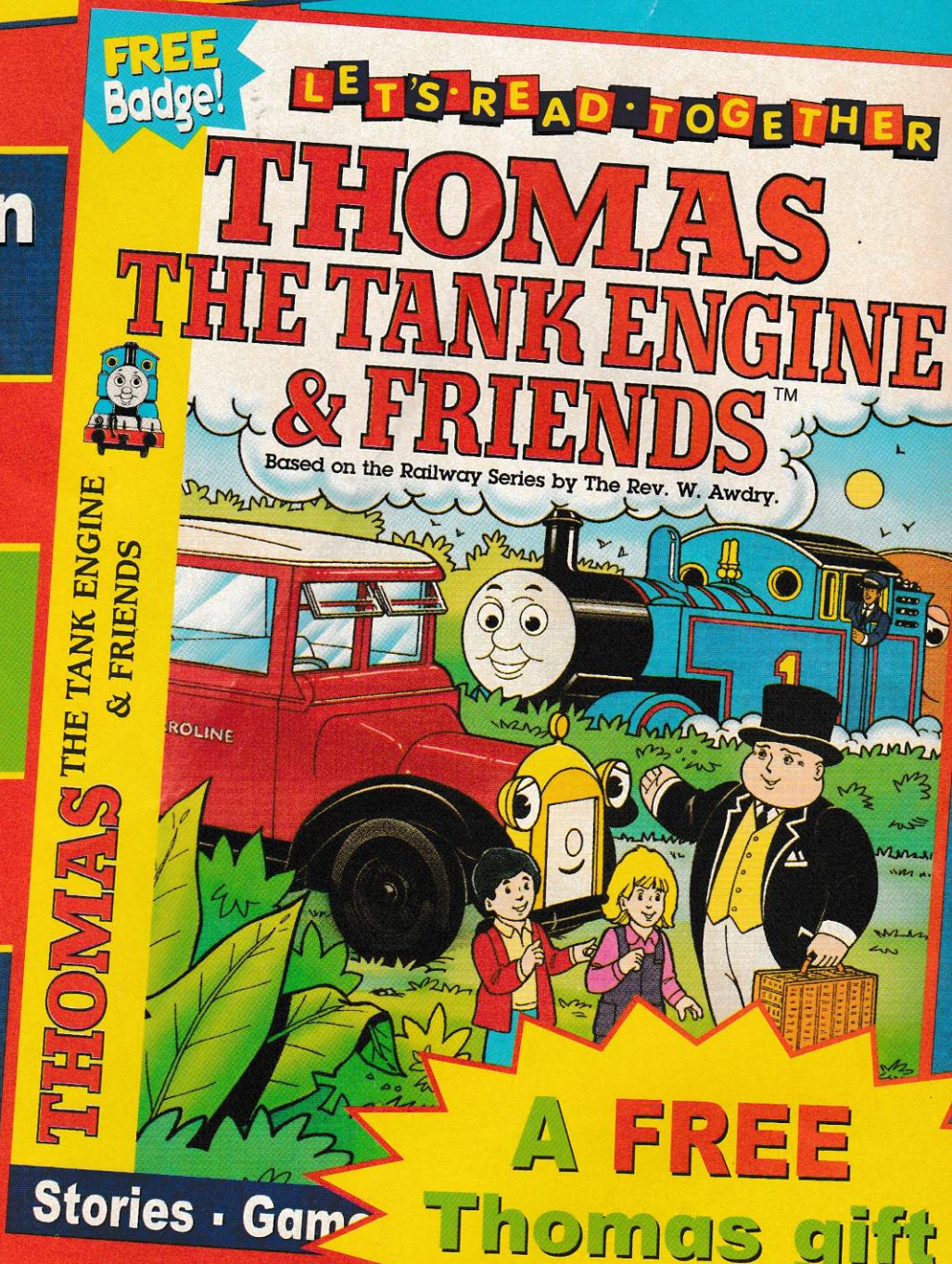
Andreas & Clarissa Chevalier!

In the NEXT ISSUE!

Competition fun!

Stories & puzzles!

Reading & colouring!



A FREE Thomas gift for you!

On sale from 7th August 1997

Available from all leading supermarkets & newsagents!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!

Dear Newsagent,
Please reserve / deliver all future issues of Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends

Name.....

Address.....

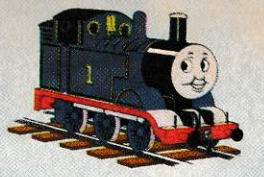
.....Post Code.....

Signature of parent / guardian.....

Thank you

HEART
Character Toys

THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



Priority Order Form

Product	Qty	Price £	Total
Bean Bag 3cu ft		23.99	
Bean Chair (not illustrated)		27.99	
Sing-Along Cassette Player		24.99	
Playhouse		19.99	
Swimbag		3.99	
Backpack		5.99	
Safety Helemet		18.99	
Knee & Elbow Pads		8.99	
Adjustable Skates 4.5J - 11J		15.99	
Trike (not illustrated)		36.99	
Projector		9.99	
Thomas Flashlight		8.99	
Pop-Dice Game		7.99	
Lunchbox (with flask)		6.99	
Wobble Bottle		3.75	
Twist-Top Flask		4.75	
Twin Wall Glitter Tumbler		3.75	
Fuzzy Felt		4.55	
My First Thomas Playset (Thomas Annie & Clarabel and Fat Controller)		16.99	

Full Range of my First Thomas Toys available
UK Packing & Postage .99
Overseas Packing & Postage £3.00 per £10.00 order

Total order value £

Please make Cheques /Postal orders Payable to Heart Fashions & Designs or debit my Switch, Visa, Delta, Access, Mastercard (delete as necessary)

Card No | Exp date
Name | Issue No
Tel
Address
Postcode

Post orders to: Heart Fashions & Designs
37a, High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands WS9 9LR
Phone & Fax: 01543 377182

* 200 Thomas Products available in our FREE mail order catalogue

Pop-Dice Game

Lunchbox (with Flask)
Wobble Bottle
Twist-Top Flask
Twin Wall Glitter Tumbler

My First Thomas Playset (Thomas, Annie & Clarabel and Fat Controller)

Thomas Flashlight

Sing-Along Cassette Player

Roller Skates/Knee & Elbow Pads

Backpack/Swimbag

Bean Bag

Safety Helmet

Projector

Fuzzy Felt

Playhouse

© Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited

Order Hotline
01543 377182
FREE MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE PHONE TODAY

Let us take the 'Heart'-ache out of shopping. It couldn't be easier simply phone, fax or post your order today and wait for the postman to knock!

Stephen and Bridget's Noticeboard

Birthdays: Remember to send in your details **3 months** before your birthday!

Drawings: Send your bright and colourful pictures to the Fat Controller. **Please draw on plain paper!**

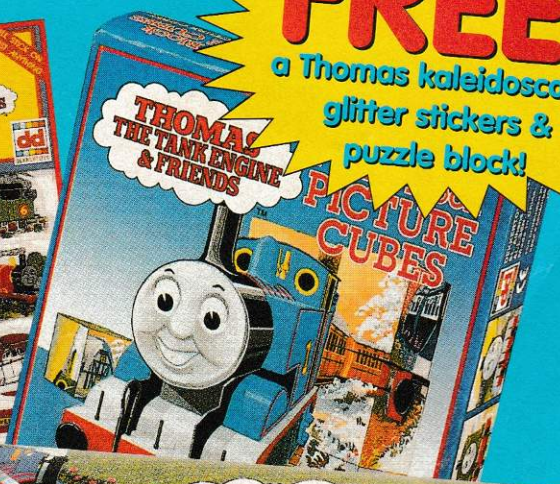
Star Letters: You can ask the Fat Controller all about his engines and their adventures!

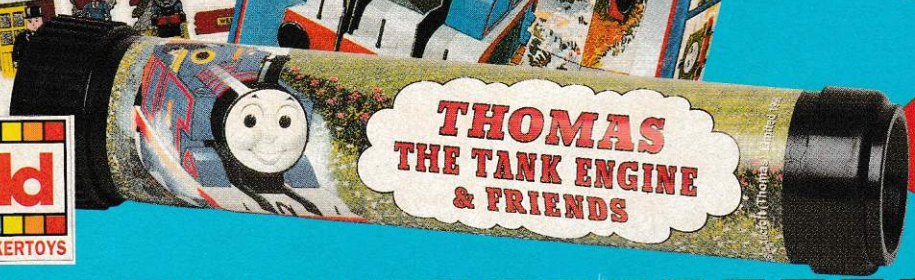
Subscription offer!

Fantastic free gifts when you subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends today! For only £31.20 you will receive 26 fun-packed issues plus these brilliant Thomas toys!

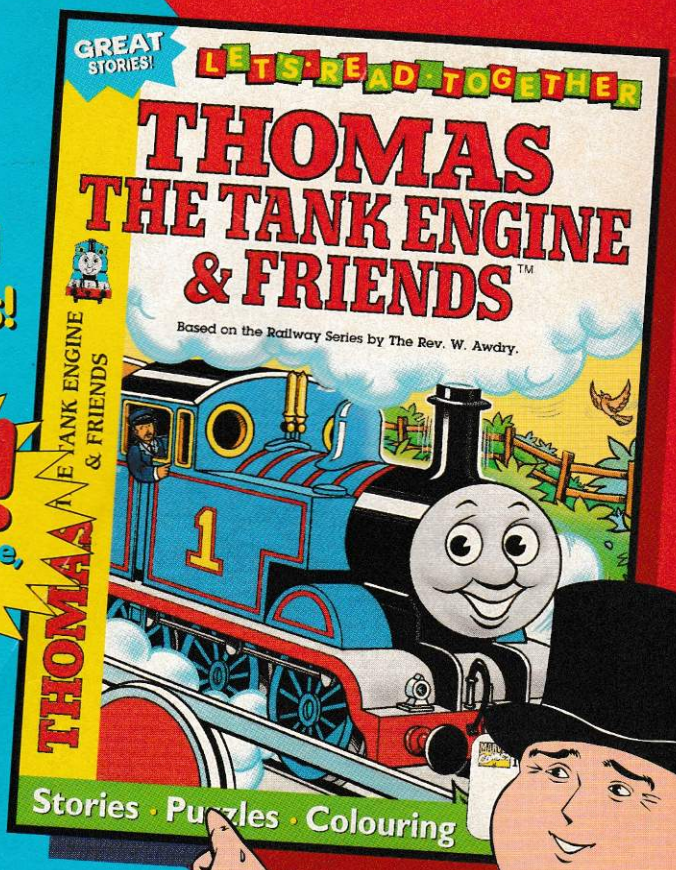
Convenient & great value for money!

FREE! a Thomas kaleidoscope, glitter stickers & puzzle block!





dd DEKKERTOYS



Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for now and receive 26 issues plus your FREE Thomas goodies!

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 12 months for £31.20.
Postage and packaging is **FREE!**

Child's name.....**Address**.....

.....

.....**Post code**..... **Date of birth**.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Panini UK Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my **Visa/Mastercard** or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... **Address (if different from child's)**.....

.....

.....**Post code** .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

On occasion, we may permit other reputable companies to make offers of products or services to our customers. Please tick here if you would prefer not to receive details of any special offers or new products. ☐

0115 B